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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

September 20th—26th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 38

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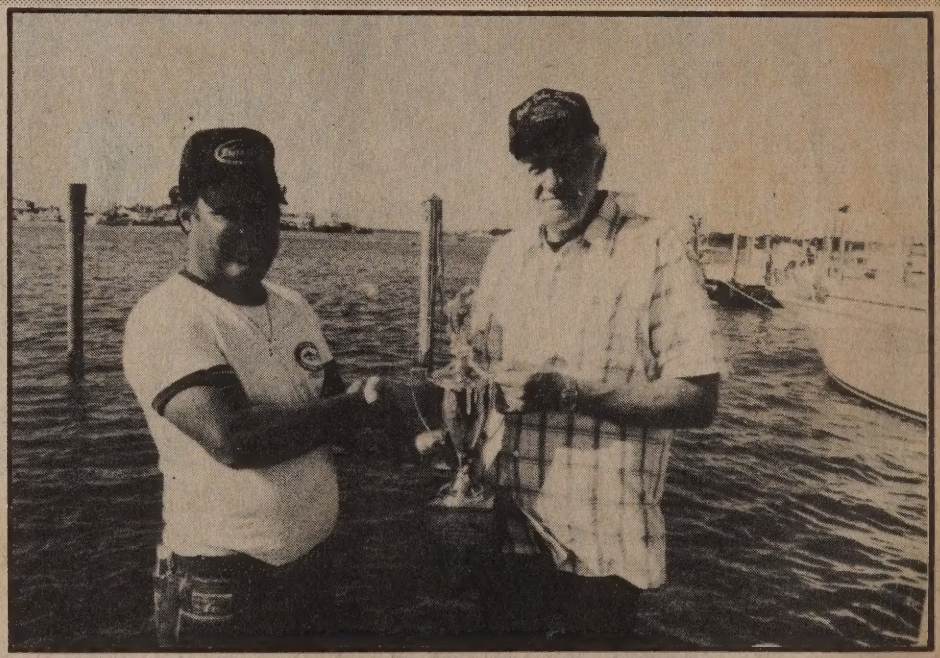
Lou Rosado, vice president of Edelman's tackle division shown presenting Capt'n John Sekora, 76, with its annual trophy.



Annual Edelman's Sporting Goods "Sportsman of the Year" award presented to Captain John Sekora for his outstanding achievement in the development and use of fish-catching equipment, 1984.

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THE Fisherman

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Volume 19, Number 38 September 20th, 1984

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Big bluefish are especially fond of big baits, both natural and artificial. See the article on page 14 for more on how to take some real slammers this fall.

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NOTICE
BLUEFISH PLAN REJECTED

The Fisherman has learned that the proposed Bluefish Fishery Management Plan has been rejected! This surprising turn of events will be dealt with in a soon-to-follow editorial as full details become available.

BOATING SKILLS COURSE IN EAST ISLIP

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1-3 will conduct a 12-lesson, adult Boating Skills and Seamanship course, beginning October 4th, 7:30 PM, at East Islip Senior H.S.

BOATING COURSES ON SOUTH SHORE

South Shore Power Squadron announces the availability of free Basic Boating Courses offered at a number of locations in the central Long Island area.

The courses run for approximately two hours an evening (8-10PM) one evening a week, for ten weeks, at the three locations listed below:

East Meadow H.S., Carman Ave., E. Meadow. Starts Wednesday, Sept. 19th, Bill Cloonan, Chairman.

Plainview, Old Bethpage H.S., Central Park Rd., Plainview. Starts Monday, Oct. 1st; Ed Owen, Chairman.

Freeport H.S., S. Brookside Ave., Freeport. Starts Tuesday, Oct. 2nd; Ted Sammis, Chairman.

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

A 12-week evening course in safe boat handling will be given by the Brooklyn Power Squadron in downtown Brooklyn and the Sheepshead Bay area this fall as part of an expanded educational program. The course is designed for skippers and would-be skippers, and is open to men, women and teenagers.

Classes will be held at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, just a half block from Brooklyn Borough Hall, on Thursdays at 7:30 PM, starting on September 20th. Registration for those classes will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. at the school on September 20th.

Classes also will be conducted at Sheepshead Bay High School, 3000 Avenue X, near Nostrand Avenue, on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM starting on September 19th. Prospective students for those classes are requested to register by calling 338-3083.

Ownership of a boat is not required to attend the course. Classes cover the techniques of safe handling inboard and outboard craft, anchoring, tying basic knots, chart reading, plotting course, use of a mariner's compass, and safety afloat. Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, also are explained in illustrated lectures.

The Brooklyn Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, conducts the classes to reach boaters and those interested in boating, the skills they must possess for safety on the water. Additional information can be obtained by calling 338-3083.

FLOTILLA 13-10 TO GIVE BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP COURSE

Beginning Monday, October 1st, Flotilla 13-10 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering a free Safe Boating Course at the Sylvia Packard Middle School in the Plainedge School District. The course will be given for six consecutive Monday evenings from 8-/?pm. Enrollment will be limited on a first come, first served basis.

This very informative course is the most extensive offered by the Auxiliary. Interesting and practical topics, such as boat handling, rules of the road, aids to navigation, charts and compass, piloting, weather, radiotelephone, and marine engines will be covered.

All registrants who successfully complete the course will receive an official certificate issued by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The certificate is honored by most insurance companies for a discount on boat insurance.

For further information, please call Bea Cooper at (516) 221-3996 after 8PM.

BASS FEVER FOR FULL MOON TOURNEY

Excitement is high at Montauk Point, with a pending world's record for a 44½ lb. striped bass, in the Ladies Division on 15 pound test line recently landed at Montauk Marine Basin, anglers are gearing up for the annual Full Moon Bass Tournament.

According to Carl Darenberg, Jr., of the Montauk Marine Basin, the 8th annual Full Moon Bass Tournament which will be held on October 5 through 8, 1984, has been receiving a number of early entries.

Seventy-four hours of fishing will begin Noon, Friday, October 5th and end 2PM Sunday, October 8th. IGFA rules apply, except for the use of wire line and multiple hooks which are legal.

Prize monies will include $300, $200, $100 for the top three fish. Trophies will be awarded in the special categories.

The 1983 winners were: 1st place, Jean Konikoski, aboard the boat Suzi, 48½ lbs. Jean also took the womens division. Second and third place, Ray Konikoski, also aboard the Suzi, 42 lbs. and Glen Dennis aboard Lineside with a 42 lb. bass.

For information and applications.

contact Carl Darenberg at Montauk Marine Basin at (516) 668-5900.

JONES BEACH POWER SQUADRON OFFERS BOATING COURSE

Jones Beach Power Squadron, a non-profit boating organization, will offer a free sail and power boating course. This course is open to the public. Registration will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 24th, at the Seaford Junior High School Cafeteria, Washington Ave., Seaford, Long Island, New York.

You do not have to own a boat to take this 12-week course. Subjects taught are boat handling, seamanship and common emergency procedures, aids to navigation, rules of the road, compass and chart use, running lights and equipment and trailering. Again, registration for this course will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 24th at the Seaford Junio High School Cafeteria, Washington Avenue, Seaford, Long Island, New York.

FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN PORT JEFFERSON

Old Field Point Power Squadron will present the basic boating course of the U.S. Power Squadrons at the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School in Port Jefferson starting September 18, 1984. This course is 10 weeks and will be held every Tuesday night from 8PM to 10PM. Registration for classes will be at the first class on September 18th.

The course is offered free to the public. Instruction will be given by experienced Squadron members in safe boating, rules of the road, aids to navigation, running lights and equipment, boat trailering, compass and chart familiarization and other relevant topics in both power and sail boating.

FREE BASIC BOATING COURSE IN ISLIP

The Great South Bay Power Squadron, a member unit of the United States Power Squadrons, will conduct a free 11-week basic boating course starting on October 2, 1984. Classes will be held from 8PM to 10PM every Tuesday evening in the Islip Junior High School Cafeteria, located on Montauk Highway in Islip.

Registration will take place on September 20th and 25th from 7:30 to 9PM at the Islip High School on Montauk Highway in Islip. The classes are free; however, there will be a nominal charge for text book and navigation material.

This basic boating course will include U.S. Coast Guard Safety Regulations, rules of the road, aids to navigation, basic piloting and use of charts, among other topics.

Upon passing the final examination, participants will receive safe boating certificates, which many marine insurance carriers honor for a reduction in premiums.

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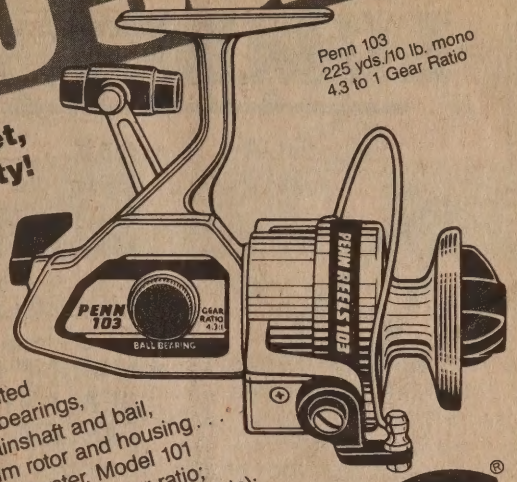

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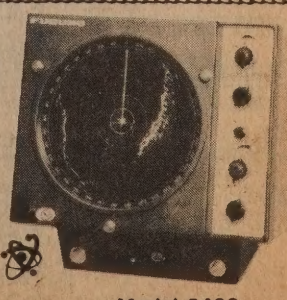

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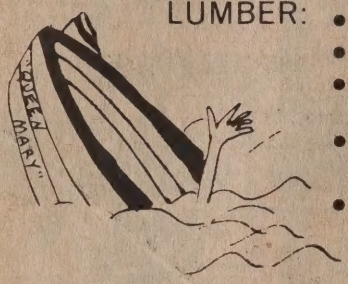

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By Al Ristori

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For further information, please contact Bob Kirshbaum at 587-6739.

"AN EVENING WITH ROSALYNN & JIMMY CARTER" AT THE CATSKILL FLY FISHING CENTER

As part of its drive to raise money for building an extensive new home, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center will hold "An Evening with Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter" on September 22nd. The former President and First Lady have agreed to serve as Honorary Hosts at this $500-a-plate dinner, at Kings, Old Route 17, Livingston Manor, New York.

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to preserving the heritage and protecting the future of fly fishing in the United States.

The Center owns a 35-acre site on the banks of the Willowemoc River on which it plans to build its new, permanent headquarters, including a museum, library, and research and demonstration facility.

TWO FREE BOATING COURSES

The Hempstead Bay Power Squadron will conduct free courses in boating. Starting at 8PM at North Valley Stream High School, October 2nd and Hewlett High School, October 3d. The course is open to men, women and youngsters. Youngsters must be at least 13 years of age and must come with a parent or guardian. Boat ownership is not required for anyone.

The 10-week course will cover important phases of boating practice including rules and regulations, boat handling, trailering, water skiing and other subject which lead to safe, happy boating.

SAFE BOATING COURSE IN SMITHTOWN

Classes in boating will be offered again this fall, at the Nissequoge Jr. High School, Edgewood Avenue, Smithtown. The course is designed to teach the boating public some of the basic knowledge necessary for the safe handling of their boats.

Classes will be held each Tuesday evening from 8PM to 10PM for 10 weeks. The first class session begins Sept. 25th at 8PM. The Smithtown Bay Power Squadron sponsors these classes.

For those who desire more advanced knowledge, there are additional courses after completion of the basic ten week course. Included in the first course are such subjects are safety afloat, seamanship, small boat handling, government regulations, rules of the road, the mariners compass, charts and piloting.

The Smithtown Bay Power Squadron is a unit of the United States Power Squadron, a nationwide educational association of boatmen, esta-

blished in 1914, dedicated to the promotion of safety afloat.

For more information, please contact Public Relations Officer George Holst at 265-1109 during the day or in the evening at 724-0433.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN MANHATTAN

North River Power Squadron will be hosting a boating class beginning Tuesday, September 18th at 6:30PM, in downtown Manhattan at the Murry Bergtraum school, 411 Pearl Street. For further information, call (212) 687-1399.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN SECAUCUS

Flotilla 3-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a free boating safety course at Flotilla 3-2 Auxiliary Barge, Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus, New Jersey (next to the Aratusa Restaurant). Classes begin October 1, 1984 at 7:30 PM and continues twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays for six weeks. The course includes instruction on boat handling, legal requirements, rules of the road, piloting, marlinspike and radio telephone.

There will be a charge for cost of materials and testing. For more info, call 864-4073, Emile DeCosmo, Public Education Officer, Fl. 3-2.

Upon completion of the course, students will be awarded a certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Family participation is greatly encouraged.

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In response to the enormous cooling requirements of the big-haul sportfisherman, Sailing Specialties, Inc. is producing the biggest, best-insulated cooler ever. Over five feet long, this super large, good-looking SSI Cooler/Deckbox will be available in two thicknesses of insulation. One cooler offers 320 qt. capacity with 1½'' polyurethane foam insulation, and the other, with 220 qt. capacity, has 3'' polyurethane.

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Optional accessories are teak chocks for shock cord tie-downs, white vinyl-covered foam cushion for lid, extra baffles of heavy-duty polyethylene, and large storage tray for the 320 qt. cooler. For further detailes about the cooler and a free catalog of more than 80 functional SSI yachting products, write or phone to Sailing Specialties, Inc., P.O. Box 527, Lexington Park, MD 20653; (301) 863-8196.

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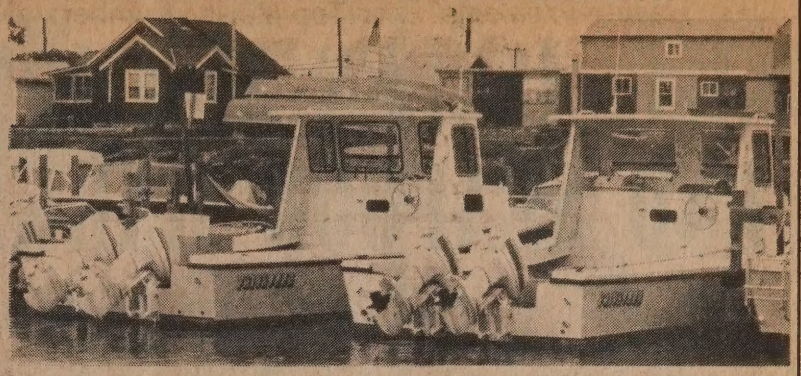

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★★★ NEWS UPDATE ★★★

D.E.C. ISSUES SUMMONS TO EAST END SEAFOOD MARKET OWNER

by William A. Muller

In late August, Department of Environmental Conservation Officers, were performing "a routine inspection" at Stuart's Seafood Market in Amagansett, when they discovered **28 short** bass measuring between 17 and 22 inches. The present law, passed and signed by the Governor in June, 1983, calls for striped bass to be 24 inches long.

Although the issuance of the summons was obviously not greeted with enthusiasm by the commercial fishing residents of the East End, for obvious reasons, the DEC indicated it has the responsibility to enforce the law regardless of popularity.

William Vorpahl, owner of the market, will appear in court the end of September to answer the summons. Although 28 illegal bass were discovered, DEC Lieutenant Garrett Meade indicated a summons for only a single violation was issued although 28 violations could have been charged. According to one observer, who wished to remain nameless, "The officers issued the one violation to appease the locals who are upset about the summons. Now, let's see if the East Hampton judge has the --- (guts) to give him the fine of $250 called for in the law. We'll see if there'll be justice or a whitewash!"

Although most commercial fishermen refused comment, one newcomer to the business did offer some advice to other commercial fishermen and market owners. "Can anyone honestly believe that Mr. Vorpahl didn't know he had 28 sub-sized fish in the store? Of course he knew it! I've listened to some of the guys talk about this 24 inch law. Obviously, they don't like it. Okay, I don't like it either, but we all better obey it. We're trying to convince the Governor that we need a break. But, if we are caught cheating on the law, the idea of a moratorium might gain a head of steam. If that happens, how are we gonna get a break. The best way not to get caught with illegal fish is not to try and sell them."

Arnold Leo, secretary of the East Hampton Town Baymen's Association has been free in the last year to offer his opinion publicly that the 24 inch law is not respected by East End commercial fishermen. The Association, along with other commercial fishing-oriented organizations has been lobbying hard since the summer of 1983 to have the law amended or thrown out entirely. These organizations claim financial hardships, while other organizations and groups in favor of the law point out the need to protect a fast dwindling resource from exploitation. Representatives of both sides comment freely that this battle will probably go on for some time.

Meanwhile, we wondered what effect these violations would have on the credibility of East End commercial fishermen. Although no one wanted to comment on the record, fearful of economic recriminations, several did offer that credibility was built upon adherence to high standards of conduct and that finding 28 illegal fish in one market diminishes credibility considerably. Feelings were mixed whether loss of credibility would be lasting or fleeting.

Lieutenant Meade also indicated that there would be additional inspections, and that DEC planned now to follow up on leads involving other violations of the bass law.

One sportsman we spoke with said, "I'm very happy about this expression of sincere enforcement by DEC. It's the law, whether people agree with it or not, it's the law. Strict enforcement is one way to deliver the message that the State is serious about this law. I hope every violator gets a summons and every violator is forced to pay the $250 per fish."

Gentle handling of sub 24" stripers by anglers and commercial fishermen will ensure a high survival rate for these fish.

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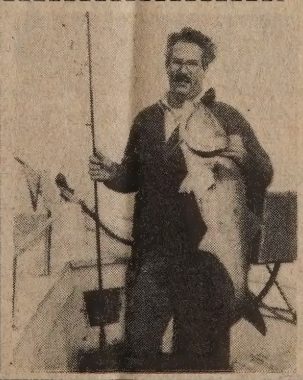

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BIG BAITS FOR BIGGER BLUES

by Capt. Pete Mikoleski

For us regular guys who search the inshore waters of Long Island, a fish of 15 or 20 lbs. would surely brighten up the season for many of us. There comes a time of the season when your dream of a tackle-busting bluefish can easily be realized. As an added bonus you might even be lucky enough to score with a mammoth weakfish or trophy striper. Primarily, we will concern ourselves with bluefish, but since their feeding habits are so very similar, it's not too farfetched to hope for a stray striper or weakfish.

All summer long bluefish have been in residence off the shores of Long Island. Usually these fish tend to congregate at Cholera Banks, the Three Sisters Wreck and further west at 17 Fathoms, the Klondike Banks, and the Farms as well as other local grounds. Any of these places can be depended upon to produce bluefish of 5 to 8 pounds regularly. Very often these spots will produce the real gorillas that rival Montauk's Cartwright blues, monsters of 15 lbs. and up.

There's a time of the year, though, that these tackle-busters are available to everyone, including those who cannot make a trip offshore by party, charter, or private boat. When bluefish start their fall migration these fish come way inshore, sometimes right in the wash, to fatten up on enormous schools of bunker that pour out of our South Shore inlets every fall. The bluefish's predator instincts are keenly aware of this and can't pass up an opportunity for an easy feast. I would say that the last week of September till Election Day and sometimes beyond (weather permittin) is the time to score with these monsters off any beaches between Rockaway Inlet, Debs Inlet (or East Rockaway Inlet, if you prefer) and Jones Inlet. Big offshore boats aren't needed because these fish really hug the beaches at this time of the year. Keeping an eye on the weather and avoiding any unnecessary risks will ensure a rewarding day. Even if you don't have a Hatteras docked in your backyard there's always the possibility of a potential record awaiting you. Surf fishermen also drag home heavy stringers of fish taken right in the wash, especially at Debbs and Jones Inlets.

Due to less boat traffic after Labor Day, you won't find it necessary to confine yourself to fishing at the crack of dawn to find hungry blues breaking water, although fishing at dawn and dusk must be labeled "prime time" any time of the year.

Big blues are fond of big swimming plugs such as the Danny and Super Strike.

During their fall migration, any time of the day might find big blues fattening up on those massive schools of bunker. Jigging, trolling, casting, or bunker dunking will produce fish to be sure. But, for consistency, I tend to lean towards live bait fishing and wire line trolling. These fish are after big baits (bunker), so we have to use a lure and/or bait that will entice these fish. Diamond jigs resemble sand eels and although they will work, if you really want the big ones you have to present them with something bigger. Now don't get me wrong: a 10 or 15 lb. bluefish is nothing to be ashamed of, but for some reason I'm obsessed with fish of 20 lbs. or better. So, for me, be it trolling or bait fishing, "big baits mean big fish."

Before you can catch 'em you still have to find them and diving birds are always your best bet, but keep in mind that 1 or 2 birds just hovering over a patch of water is worthy of investigation. Also be aware that a flock of birds just floating on top of the water all together might mark a school of blues that is there, but not actively feeding at the moment. When there is no surface activity evident, it's back to searching likely areas that have held fish in the past with your chart recorder until you start marking fish on paper.

If you are fortunate enough to be out on a very calm day, you'll be able to see schools of bunker flipping on the surface. Unfortunately, sometimes this is all that is going on, just a school of bunker milling about. The only way to find out if this is the case

is to work the school. If nothing happens in a few minutes time just snag a few more bunker for live bait and head for another spot.

Fishing with live bunker would be my first choice if they can be obtained easily enough. If we are able to snag some fresh bunker, we'll use a medium weight outfit, a rod about 6 to 6½ feet long with a conventional reel similar to a Penn Squidder or Jigmaster filled with 20 or 25 lb. test mono. Spinning can be used here also with a reel similar to a Penn 650 with a 7 to 8 foot rod and 15 or 17 lb. test mono. As always, the mono line should be fresh and of good quality, and the drags on your reels MUST be working and set properly. To rig up for this kind of fishing, the first thing to do is take an egg sinker of about an ounce or so and slip this on the end of your mono line. Then tie on a black barrel swivel of about 30 lb. test. Make sure you use a good improved clinch knot and snug it up nice and tight. Next we'll take a 3 or 4 foot piece of 50 lb. test leader material and snell it to a 4/0 treble hook. Now once again with a good improved clinch knot, tie the leader material to the other end of the barrel swivel.

This is to slow down the bait a little bit and the egg sinker will also keep your bait below the school of bunker closer to where the blues are feeding. It will make your bait appear to be injured, an easy prey for those opportunistic bluefish. Remember to keep checking your leader from time to time because those razor sharp teeth can fray that mono in no time. Whenever possible we try to stay away from a wire leader, unless we start to drop a lot of fish because they bite through the heavy mono. Now it's just a matter of hooking the bunker lightly through the back near the dorsal fin. Then just flip the bait into the water and let it swim around naturally. When a pick-up is felt, wait till he runs a little and hit the fish hard and be ready for the time of your life. If you know there are bluefish feeding in the area and you aren't getting any pick-ups, try lightly slashing the side of your bunker once or twice. Not too deeply; just enough to draw a little blood in the water to give those fish a scent to home in on. This little trick might be all that is needed to help a hungry fish zero in on your bait.

If live bunker is unavailable (fresh) dead bunker chunks would be my next choice. With all that live bait in the water, a bluefish would be pretty hard pressed to pick up a bait that isn't the same. As a very last resort, I would try frozen bunker or possibly frozen mackerel chunks, but only out of desperation.

Now, for some reason or another, if bunker dunking doesn't work, then try trolling for them. Umbrella rigs will work, but I would rather use bunker spoons or large wooden plugs. These are more apt to look like bunker to the bluefish, as well as the added possibility of tricking a stray striper into attacking. Sometimes it pays to troll a plug or a spoon right off the bottom even when most of the blues are on top. Every so often a large weakfish or striper will stay underneath the feeding blues ready to pick up any scraps that might fall to the bottom. It can happen and it's always a welcome bonus when it does. It's standard practice on the Regina-M to troll one outfit in the immediate target zone of the feeding blues. This is usually a Lupo baby spoon and a Danny swimming plug, right off the bottom, just in case.

The reason I haven't mentioned much about umbrella rigs is not because they don't work; they sure do. Last year we had many triple headers on umbrella rigs, the best one had two, 12 pounders and one 14 pounder boated on one umbrella rig a the same time. Thirty-eight pounds of angry bluefish going in all different directions at the same time is more than any SANE person would want to handle, no matter how physically fit they are. When this happens we actually have to back down on these fish. Talk about confusion in the cockpit: three big blues jumping around and all those hooks on the umbrella rigs flying around is downright dangerous. If this is your idea of a good time, troll those umbrellas!

Just to prove to you how unpredictable and how fantastic this fishing can be, listen to an experience we had last year about this time. It was a Sunday in mid-September when my friend Irv and I decided to go out to the Island for some breakfast and check on my boat, because we had had some pretty nasty weather in recent days. By the time we got to the boat after breakfast, it was about Noon. I was able to start the engine even though my batteries were quite low. The wind had died down so we decided to take the boat for a ride just to charge up the batteries. When we reached Debs Inlet, it was flat calm out so we decided to go a little further. Within minutes we were off Rockaway Playland about 1/4 mile off the beach. Out of nowhere birds started diving, and big fish started breaking water a little to our west. I always keep two wire line outfits aboard so we decided to make a pass or two. To make a long story short, within the hour we boated four bluefish totaling over 68 pounds! The biggest was weighed in at almost 25 lbs.; one was 18 lbs.; one was 14 lbs. and the other was 12 lbs. That's not bad considering we weren't going fishing.

From that day on, till Election Day, we were able to consistently score with bluefish in the teens with a few more that neared 20 lbs. when the weather permitted us to fish. All of this action took place between Jones Inlet and west to the Tin Can grounds, usually not more than a mile or two off the beaches.

So when the September air starts to cool, and the water temperature starts to drop, watch for the bunker to make their move. Those trophy blues will be eagerly awaiting them, too!

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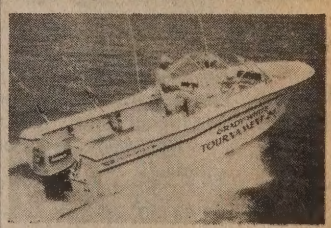

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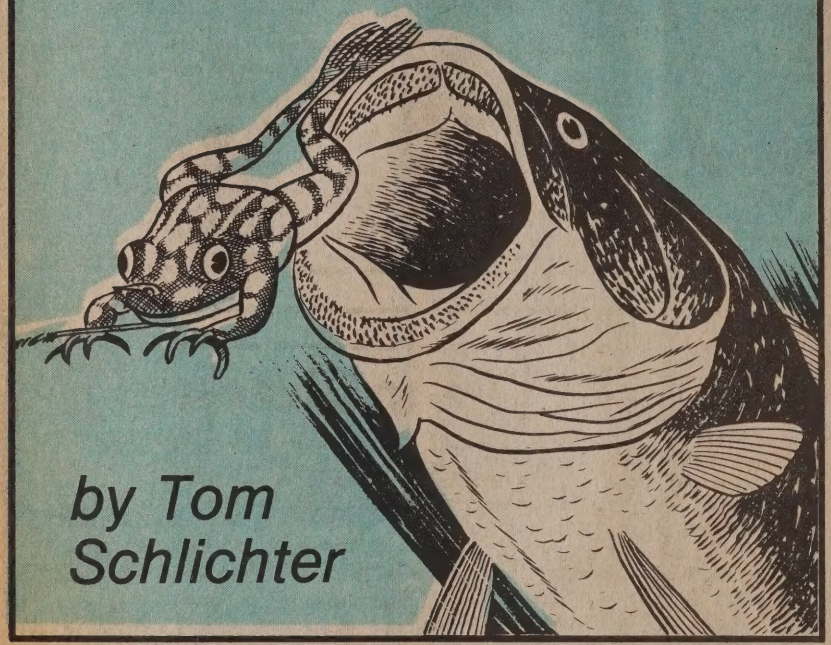

by Tom Schlichter

The proper use of live bait on local lakes is sure to get the attention of resident largemouths.

It's no secret that largemouth bass feed much more aggressively in the fall than during the heat of summer. As the water temperatures begin their steady decline sometime during early September, the bass seem to become rejuvenated, much to the delight of freshwater fans. Intent on building up their fat reserves to sustain themselves through the winter, these great game fish at least examine, if not attack, virtually any creatures that cross their path.

This is the reason that people who fish artificial lures throughout the year do so much better in the fall months. Since the bass are actively seeking food throughout the day, there is no need for lures to land right in front of the fish's nose. The bass will stray off course a few feet to get a glance at any activity they sense in their territory. Not only will they investigate, but at this time of year some fish will actually race to get first crack at anything that appears to be a free meal. With the increased activity comes increased competition for available food, as a morsel in trouble is not likely to last long.

If this increased activity and competition makes it easier to catch a bass on an artificial, think what potential the real thing must have! For the beginning angler in particular, fishing with live bait can be especially rewarding. For one thing, there is no need to make your bait appear to be a creature in trouble—it is!

Most freshwater fishermen have at least dabbled in killie or night crawler dunking. While these two baits are probably the most reliable producers, they are far from your only choices. Just as experimenting with new lures often leads to success when the fish refuse to take your favorite offerings, experimentation with different types of live bait can pay off in big dividends. A classic example of the variety of creatures a bass will consume was found in a 14 inch specimen I caught in Patchogue Lake several years ago. This fish had a belly on it that made it appear to weigh about three pounds! When I got it home, an examination of its stomach contents revealed four large crayfish, a two inch beetle, two shiners, a caterpillar, and other material far too digested to identify. Would you believe this bass hit a 3½ inch Rebel despite the fact that there was absolutely no room left in its stomach?

I've taken bass in Long Island lakes on frogs, crayfish, large insects, eels, an assortment of panfish, tadpoles, and even a small salamander. Fact is, on some days bass will eat just about anything, but you'll never know unless you give it a try.

The key to unlocking bass action through the use of livebait lies in matching the natural feeding possibilities of the fish on any given lake with the mood at any particular moment of the bass population of that body of water. It's much simpler than it sounds. In essence, your chances of fooling bass increase if the bait you use is natural to their habitat. Chances increase even more if you are able to match the mood of the fish through the use of "passive" or "active" baits.

Passive baits are categorized as those which move little on their own and create little water disturbance. Night crawlers or crayfish are a good example. These are almost always subsurface baits. They are generally fished slowly and just off the bottom when surface action is at a minimum and the bass appear to be in a quiet or subdued mood. Passive baits are especially productive on heavily fished lakes, during cold snaps when the metabolism of most fish slows somewhat, or after the sun has risen above the horizon.

Active baits generally work on or near the surface, although this does not always have to be the case. Killies, shiners, or frogs would be a good example. Each of these choices is quite capable of drawing attention to itself through its struggling actions and work especially well when the bass are agitated or working on top. Examples of active baits which generally work a little deeper are small eels or panfish.

Of course, knowing where and how to present your offerings helps considerably in encountering cooperative bass. Casting a crayfish into a shallow weedy cove will probably get you as much action as fishing a bullfrog in 30 feet of water at Lake Ronkonkoma. The ideal presentation is one in which the bait appears to be just outside its element, creating the illusion it has strayed just a little too far from home. A frog cast four or five feet from the deep end of a weedline, a crayfish worked two or three feet from an obstruction, or a shiner fished over the deep end of a slope or dropoff are all excellent examples. A small float will help keep your bait above the weeds on congested lakes and a split shot will usually help get it down when necessary. If possible, however, shy away from hardware.

One of the problems most frequently cited by the beginning basser deals with how to hook various baits so that they will appear natural. In general, it's a good idea to try to hook your bait

in a manner which will least impede it. The simple weight of hook and line will often be enough to make it struggle.

Since there are so many live baits from which to choose, I'm going to briefly mention the hooking procedures on a couple of representative samples. You can take it from there and experiment with other baits.

Killies, shiners, sunnies or other small fish can be hooked in three different ways. Most often, they are hooked through both lips so that they will not twist when being retrieved. Occasionally, they are hooked just below the dorsal fin. This method is preferred on any bait that is large enough as to present a problem to averaged size bass trying to engulf it. Finally, hooking through the tail is a method that a fair number of fishermen put to use. They feel that this allows them a better chance to hook short stripers. I prefer the first method as it allows the bait to stay alive the longest and looks the most natural when retrieved. If you feel that your bait is not active enough, try clipping off a small portion of its tail. This will cause any baitfish to work twice as hard to stay in place, much less move, causing a little more commotion.

Frogs are usually hooked through the muscle of one thigh while tadpoles are best hooked through the meaty area just ahead of the tail. Each of these must be cast gingerly so that they do not tear free of the hook.

Insects such as beetles, grasshoppers, or moths can be hooked through the thorax or chest segments while caterpillars are hooked through the neck.

Crayfish are hooked through the tail or secured by twisting a rubber band around both the hook and the crustacean's abdomen. Night crawlers are impaled once through the collar. Depending on which bait you employ, hook size will obviously vary. Be sure to use a quality hook such as Eagle Claw or Mustad. If you're not sure what size hook to use, pick the smallest size that seems logical.

When working with live bait, remember it is as important to match the mood of the lake as it is to "match the hatch." Passive baits should be worked slowly and quietly.

Night crawlers, for example, should be allowed to gently settle to the bottom and then crawled or hopped slowly back. Active baits should cause a commotion of sorts. Don't allow a killie or frog to sit motionless for any great length of time. Prod them into action with slight twitches of your rod.

Most importantly, experiment. Try different baits whenever possible and switch back and forth between active and passive baits whenever you feel the mood of the lake begin to change. The best bass fishing of the season occurs over the next few weeks, so have a crack at it. Who know what that fish of a lifetime is going to eat next. With a little luck, it could be your bait!

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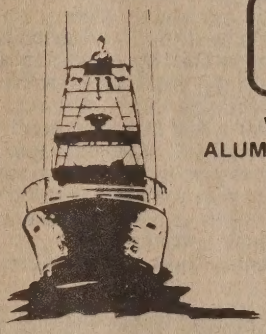

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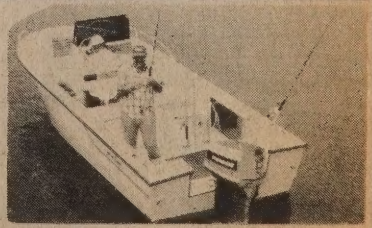

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FALL AT WEST END

PART THREE—JONES INLET

by Carl Buxbaum

Thanks to the build-up of sand on the inlet side of the Jones Beach breakwater, much of the area that used to be the exclusive province of jetty jockeys has become available to casters who prefer more relaxed fishing with their feet planted on the beach. As a result, last season an army of surf fishermen regularly trekked west from the parking field, along the ocean beach, climbed over the jetty, and was able to wade into the flowing inlet waters—even at fairly high tidal stages. Only extremely heavy seas and high tides impeded this approach. Casting tins in the same manner found effective along the ocean surf, they hit upon some of the best action that could be had anywhere with huge, bloodthirsty choppers. Teen-sized blues were taken here as early as September.

Regulars soon learned that the action was best when their casts reached the deep water of the channel. Fish seemed to strike as the tins crept and darted uphill at the ledge of the sandy shelf. During the first hours of the falling tide, fish were taken all along the breakwater, from its intersection with the ocean to the northern extreme, where it turns back from the water and fades into the beach. Many casters seemed to feel that action was generally better south of the radio shack. In any event, that was certainly the case in the last stages of the ebbing tide, when there was very little water remaining in the northern sections.

For those who stuck with it, the action was sustained after sunset. Rebels, Redfins, Hellcats, and other minnow clones worked best when wind and sea conditions permitted their use, or fish were in close. Otherwise, painted tins, bottle plugs and darters took a fair share of fish. For three or four years running, the inlet has been host to lots of schoolie bass after dark. Getting in on this action, which can be great, requires five inch minnow plugs. Step down to light tackle for a real kick, and don't forget to rig a Red Gill plastic dropper. Over half of the schoolies taken seem to choose it over the plug, and the single hook makes it easy to release the short ones unharmed.

At the northern end of the inlet is a right angle bend, where the backwaters of the bay—flowing through the state boat channel—meet the inlet. The tidal action causes a powerful rip and swirling waters. It's a very fishy spot. However fishy it may be, it seems to attract more casters than fish. This is not to say that it is an unproductive location. It's often the scene of hot, sustained action. But it tends to get crowded by congregations of fishermen, even in the middle of a weekday night. Most fish are taken here at the top of the ebbing tide, just as the water starts moving rapidly to the left. As the water recedes, it is possible to wade out onto a narrow spit of sand that usually extends off the point of the bend in the beach. Be careful though, this sand bar tends to drop off suddenly to deeper water, and the edges are soft, giving way under the angler's feet. With the very swift flow of water, many have taken a dunking when footing became insecure. Also, the bar does not appear to extend in a straight line from the beach. It pays to explore it in daylight, at low water, and memorize the required course you plot before attempting to find your way back to the beach in darkness.

Here, again, the five inch minnows are apparently the best lures. Eelworms also produce. During the day, stick with medium sized tins. Although these are all easiest to use with light line and soft tipped rods, consideration for other anglers suggests the use of an outfit that allows some pressure to be put on the fish. In the powerful currents prevailing here even a modestly sized fish, on light tackle, will require walking a good distance downtide before it can be beached. Most seasoned anglers are eager and willing to interrupt their fishing while another walks a big fish past them. But their patience thins when they repeatedly step aside for four or five pound blues and short stripers.

Most surfmen neglect the expanse of water between the radio shack and the bend leading to the state channel. They are missing some nice fishing. It can be very productive when other areas are slow and when the fisherman feels like avoiding the crowds. Although I generally plan my fishing trips by considering tidal stages and time of day, sometimes I subscribe to the belief that the best time to fish is when you have the chance. That

An Indian Summer's day draws a crowd of regular daytime casters to the "rock pile."

usually means West End, for me, since it is only a few minutes from home. As a result, I spend lots of time fishing there when all conditions—tide, wind, and time of day—are wrong. I don't mind too much if others think me silly, because I just want to be on the beach. One late Sunday afternoon (the first week of November, a few years back) I was going stir crazy. Grabbing my gear, I thought I'd try the jetty. It was completely awash when I got there. The rising tide was being driven by a strong southwest wind. Looking back along the ocean beach, I saw a number of casters, but no fish. So, I headed for the bend at the north end of the inlet, thinking I could put the wind behind me and find comfort by moving just around the turn. As the bend came into view, there were so many casters standing and talking that it looked like rush hour at the railroad station. Who needed that? Obviously, there were no fish, and I wasn't feeling as talkative as usual. I stopped in my tracks at a spot long-time regulars call the "rock pile." The name is misleading because during most recent seasons the rocks have been buried by sand, and invisible. The last time I caught a glimpse of rocks there was probably two or three years ago. But traditional names have a way of persisting, and the spot has a knack for producing, whether or not rocks can be seen. In any event, the area lies about halfway between where the breakwater turns back from the brine and the first point of land to the north. Turning toward the water, I felt a stiff and gusty wind in the face. Waves were rolling onto shore with a fury rarely experienced at an inlet. Casting wasn't going to be easy. So, I changed reel spools, dropping down to 12 pound line and snapped on a five inch Nils Master minnow. It casts very well for its size. By this time the sun was sitting on the horizon, and the tide was approaching flood stage. Efforts to time the cast between wind gusts unexpectedly worked, and the first cast reached reasonably beyond the breaking waves. As soon as the plug swung to the right with the tide, I felt a healthy thunk. But there was still slack in the line. I failed to set the hooks. Three attempts later, the cast again fit neatly between wind gusts. This time, slack was taken up at top speed. On the plug's first wobble, still on the surface, it was whacked with incredible determination. The drag sang as the fish peeled away yard after yard of the light line. It was a very long run. She headed off perpendicular to the beach instead of downtide. This confused me, and because she wouldn't quit, I thought I was fighting a big bluefish. Perhaps the drag was set too lightly? Unable to resist temptation, I gently placed my forefinger on the edge of the reel spool. The bend of the rod doubled, and the line hummed under the pressure. The brute slowed, turned and rolled on the surface. It was a cow striper. My finger flew off the spool, and she was off and running again as if feeling no resistance. In time, she was exhausted. The waves helped as I rolled her onto the beach at the first point of land to the north. An early appointment at work the next morning prevented me from getting the fish weighed at a tackle shop. But it bottomed out my wife's kitchen scale at its 30 pound maximum.

Back to 15 pound line, I waded deeper and took on quite a bit of water under similar conditions the next night. Fish were there again; mostly big blues and bass of about four or five pounds. They were carefully released. I moved north to the bend as the tide began to turn and fall. It was crowded there again. So I worked the area 20 or 30 yards south, where the water swirls in the back eddy formed by the elbow of land. Once more I was into stripers. Most were small, but one good sized beauty found a beat-up five inch RedFin.

Through repeated testing, I learned that this section of beach is not to be passed up. With a southwest, and sometimes a due west, wind, the last two hours of a flooding tide are consistently productive from the rock pile through the first two points of land on the right. Both points also produce well at the top of a falling tide, when the wind is out of the northwest or north. Any westerly wind can make the back eddy south of the bend a good bet on the turn of the flood tide.

This is all wind-in-the-face fishing. It can get real uncomfortable, and casting range is limited. Though some may not agree, I think the five inch minnow plugs are best. I've also had some luck with the six and seven inch versions of the Bomber Long As and Rapala Magnums recently. These cope with the wind a bit better than most. Tested by winds of 20 or so miles an hour, I've used white or yellow painted tins with modest success, so long as the water was not clogged with weeds. For some reason (maybe it's only my bad luck), bottle plugs and darters haven't done much for me here—even when the main forage was large mullet or bunker.

So, if you don't mind a chilling head-on wind and like to come across no more than a couple of other anglers on a weekday night, try this piece of waterfront. For companionship and better prospects of catching fish, stay south of the radio shack throughout a falling tide or move to the bend when the tide begins to pour out toward the sea.

But you probably won't be able to stop there. The secrets of the state channel, around the bend and east, are too tempting. Last season it was the sight of numerous bunker massacres. Trapped against the beach, bunker were slaughtered by huge choppers and cow bass. A small number of secretive and informed beach rats launched a successful counterattack against these savage predators.

To be continued.

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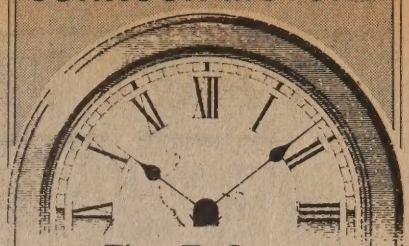

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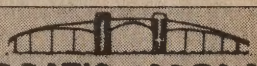

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"FALL" FOR THE BIG THREE

by Andy Regina

For many years, the late author looked forward to Long Island Sound's fall harvest. Here he shares his knowledge and love for this fishing.

We have three inshore game fish of note within Long Island Sound, what I refer to as the big three of all inshore game fish. These are the striped bass, the bluefish, and the northen weakfish, also known as squeteague, yellowfin, tiderunner and sea trout. These three species may be found together at times and though each is compatible to the other two and all feed on identical baits, there is no marked competition per se. Each has different and distinct feeding characteristics that prevent head-on clashes for food even though two or more of the species may be feeding on the same source at the same time.

Bluefish, perhaps the fastest and hungriest of our inshore gamesters and most definitely the most ferocious of the three species, usually do most of their feeding at high water levels, anywhere from mid-depth to surface stratas. And they feed at a hectic pace, tearing into trapped, balled-up schools of baitfish with reckless abandon, chopping and slashing at random. Quite often these voracious fish go into feeding frenzies, regurgitating their stomach contents when gorged to continue their murderous rampage. Maimed, shredded and assorted bits and pieces of decimated baitfish settle slowly to the bottom, where they are ingested by the slower-moving, larger and usually older bluefish as well as striped bass and weakfish who not only feed at more leisurely paces, but wisely remain fairly free from bluefish attach themselves, by keeping as far away from the actively feeding bluefish as possible. Remember, if you come upon surface-feeding predators, that the biggest fish usually can be found at or near the very bottom, waiting for food to come to them rather than expending energy by pursuing fast-moving, healthy baitfish.

The current crop of bluefish fry, commonly known as snapper blues or just plain snapper, provide an extensive fishery in late summer and early fall, usually departing for warmer climes in late October, prodded on their way by a stiff nor'easter or two and cooling temperatures. While they're here though, they please young and old alike with their aggressiveness, abundance, and a willingness to strike either bait or lure. Add to these assets the snapper's proximity to shorelines, relative ease of capture and a delicious flavor when cooked, and you can see why this small fish may just be the most popular of all of our inshore game fish. Once snappers grow to about one pound, they are usually called tailor or cocktail blues and remain in this category until they achieve weights of about two or three pounds each. Bluefish from three to five pounds are generally called harbor blues, fish over 10 pounds apiece called jumbos, and the biggies 15 pounds and up are affectionately known as gorillas. That missing category (from five to ten pound fish) are simply called bluefish, for want of a more imaginative name I'll warrant.

These fish can be taken on bait and lures, via many diverse techniques and/or methods, and are the bane as well as a boon to the surfcasting set, while providing boatmen with consistent action, too. The most popular bait appears to be the menhaden, also known as moss bunker, bunker and

(Continued on next page.)

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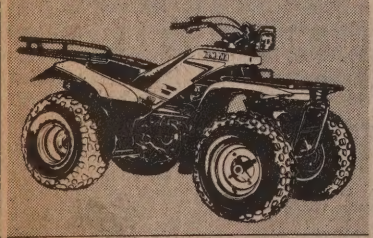
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pogy; this oily member of the herring family is the prime factor motivating most inshore game fish movements—bass, blues and weaks stalk the schools continuously, feeding on the hapless bait whenever the mood strikes. We seek these huge schools for two reasons, primarily for securing some as bait for our fishing but also to locate game fish. As the bunker mill restlessly on the surface, we cast and retrieve weighed treble-hooked snag jigs through the tightly packed school, impaling unwilling volunteers in the process.

Perhaps the easiest way to fish bunker is to leave one impaled on the snag jig when you snag it and let it swim around downstairs on the edges of its school, where it is likely to attract the attention of predators because of its wounded swimming action. Live bunker can also be transferred to another rod that is rigged with either a treble hook at the end of a nylon-covered cable leader, or a large single hook rigged in the same manner. The bait is then free-lined into the depths, where it is allowed to swim about unhindered from a tether, thus presenting a more natural appearance. Very often, live bunker are transported to other areas and survive the journey in aerated bait wells or large plastic garbage cans constantly replenished with fresh saltwater.

Dead fresh bunker can be equally effective also, either in a whole state or as cut bait; cut baits are either chunks or steaks that are cut crosswise through the bait and contain part of the bone structure, or fillets that are sliced off lengthwise and contain no bones at all. Whole dead baits are rigged by inserting a large single hook, or a treble, through both jaws (from the bottom lip up through the top). This bait is free-spooled out to the depths and retrieved back with imparted rod action that should make it resemble a live, wounded fish. Cut bait is usually impaled on a large single hook (a 5/0 to 8/0 Beak or O'Shaughnessy) and allowed to dangle from the bend once the point and barb have emerged completely through the opposite side of the bait. Chunks or steaks should be hooked so that part of the bone is impaled, to assure greater holding power. Fillets should be impaled skin side down, once and only once, from the widest end, so that the fillet can flutter pennant-like from the hook, in the currents down below. Each of these baitfishing mediums has merit at one time or another, and the wise angler employs whatever method may be necessary at any particular time.

Most of our baitfishing for bluefish is done within harbor during evening, night and early morning hours. The reason is simple: for it is during these periods that bunker seek refuge in harbors, often among the very moorings of marinas close inshore. For this reason, we spent a lot of nights within Hempstead Harbor, Oyster Bay and Huntington Harbors, and Cold Spring Harbor. Way in the west, Larchmont and Mamaroneck Harbors get most of our nocturnal attention as does the buoy outside of old Fort Totten, between Stepping Stone Light and the Throg's Neck Bridge. The other good baitfishing areas we like are the many reefs located within the Sound as well as most of the points of land on the north shore of Long Island. Mid-reef in the western Sound and Center Island Reef farther east, off Bayville, are but two of the reefs we favor. Stamford Reef on the Connecticut side is also highly prolific more times than not.

When the tide is ripping, we like to anchor off a point and drift baits into the rips formed by the strong water rushing past the rocky point. While most baitfishing is usually done with no or very little weight attached to the line, here we often revert to anchoring fishfinder rigs with a sinker. This keeps the bait in the desired area as it still presents a weightless attraction to predators. This could pertain to live baits at times also. You gotta play it by ear each and every trip out if you want to score. If one way doesn't work, try another and then something else again if you have to. Don't sit there like a bump on a log and curse because there ain't no fish. Do something to get those fish to bite! If you are gonna sit around doing nothing, you might as well sit at home and watch TV—at least you might get some enjoyment out of it! Anyone can catch fish when they're biting like crazy; it's knowing what to do and when to do it, that separates the fishermen from the rest.

Fall is traditionally lure fishing time, even though baits do an excellent job at this time, because of great successes achieved with lures at this time. Strike ratios increase breathtakingly once the weather and the water cools, prompting inshore game fish into increasing protein intake to build up fat content for the oncoming winter. With many baits, such as bunker, mackerel, herring, and mullet migrating en masse, game fish tend to become more aggressive and less cautious, lending further impetus to the argument in favor of lures. Topwater lures are probably the most-used of all, simply because the dramatic results of fish striking such lures are usually visible to the angler, thus forever etching the thrilling picture in his memory. Popping and darting plugs see lots of action now, as does the ubiquitous minnow-type swimming plug. Bear in mind that most bigger fish hug the bottom, and don't be afraid to go deep with bucktail or diamond jigs as well as deep-running plugs and plastic-tail jigs, too. That old saw about dark lures at night and light-colored lures by day is still good fishing sense more often than not. So break out those whites, yellows and silvers during daylight and go with more sedate dark colors after the sun goes down. And fish those dark lures as slowly as you can, for best results. Quite often, no

retrieve at all will produce results, especially in strong water.

Striped bass and weakfish can be included in the above-mentioned techniques, with a couple of additional remarks worth repeating that may be of some future benefit. First off, cut baits should be smaller than those used for bluefish; be it bunker or mackerel, use smaller pieces for greater success. Secondly, include live snappers and live eels in your live bait attempts, as well as live tinker mackerel and baby blackfish. These live tempters account for a good many bass and weaks every fall. Also, do not be afraid to use live worms—the bass and the squet love 'em and eat 'em like candy; worms very often do the job when all else fails, but attract all sorts of unwanted pests, like bergalls and crabs; so use leader floats to keep those baits in paydirt but out of reach of the thieves.

Lures for bass and weakfish can be the same as those previously mentioned, although most of us tend to use bigger stuff for stripers in our paranoid quest for trophy fish. Seven inch plugs are the norm for head-hunters now and nighttime sees a lot of married women sleeping alone in double beds are trusting husbands prowl lonely beaches or anchor atop underwater reefs in their search for old Roccus. Now is the time to lean on those plastic worms. Weakfish love 'em and they fool a helluva lot of stripers, too. These soft tempters can be fished in many ways, either from hooks tied directly to the line, via livelining techniques, or from jig heads created especially for the purpose. I have even seem them used successfully when used as high hooks on high-low rigs where bait was the bottom tempter for bottom fish such as porgies.

In the fall I especially love to fish the many points projecting from Long Island's north shore. October nights will find the George B II anywhere from inside buoy 13 off Eaton's Neck, past the OB buoy off Lloyd's, or as close to our home base in the west (City Island) as Sand's Point. We go where we think the bass and weakfish might be. Ask Doc Muller. In the inky darkness of a pitch-black, starless night, me and my partner were anchored off Sand's Point, trying for some bass. You couldn't see 20 feet in front of you, yet a voice cried out in the darkness, "Andy, is that you out there?" Certain that my ears were playing tricks on me, I ignored the shout. After all, who would be calling me, out here in the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the Sound, in the middle of the night?

Sure enough, after a couple of minutes the voice called out once more. "Andy Regina, if that's you out there in that boat, sound off!" No mistake this time, but what idiot would be calling me at that time, in that place, under those conditions? It never would have happened if we had not both been out that night, trying to reap a fall harvest on the Sound.

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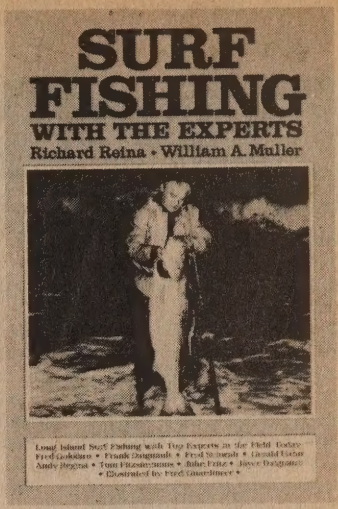

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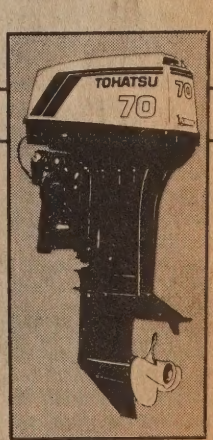

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BONITO BUSINESS

by Gerald Hahn

These high speed dynamos frequently spice the action aboard New York Bight open boats during September and October.

The most exciting game fishing takes place every September in the New York Bight, yet few party boat skippers take advantage of it. I don't know why this is so—perhaps they have blues on their minds, or it may be that there aren't enough of these predators to make fishing for them worthwhile. Nonetheless, I manage to catch a few every September and so can you. The fish are small members of the tuna family (actually of the mackerels), but in New York they are known as bonito and albacore.

Bonito and albacore are among the fastest fish in the ocean, indeed, almost as fast as wahoo. Occasionally they are taken on diamond jigs by anglers going for blues; but there is a far more productive and exciting way to tangle with these roadrunners. All you need is an 8 foot spinning rod and a surf reel comparable to the Daiwa 1500, the Penn 704Z or the Shimano MLZ 60, filled with 15 or 20 pound test. A light conventional outfit is just as effective. If the boat is anchored, secure a spot at the stern; if it is drifting, select the side where lines are going out. A bonito hook, some bait (butterfish fry, spearing or smelt) and you're set.

Sometimes these mini-tunas appear early in the day. On one trip last summer, my diamond jig found an albacore on the first cast. But for the most part, I find the tunas showing up when the bluefishing slows down. At this time I stow away my conventional outfit and break out the light gear.

Rigging up for bonito and albacore is so simple, it takes less than a minute. The aforementioned bonito hook is actually an O'Shaughnessy with a beak bend and an extra-short shank. In fact, so short that at first glance it resembles a porgy hook. Size is deceptive, however, for the hook is exceptionally strong. Favored sizes are #1 and 1/0, and the hook comes in two colors: chrome and brown. Of the two, the brown hue is favored for its lower visibility, an important consideration because tuna have keen eyes and are highly selective about the presentation. Rigging up is simply a matter of tying the hook directly to the fishing line with eiither an improved clinch knot or a Palomar knot. That's all there is to it! No sinkers, no snells, no wire or plastic leaders. Only in the roughest current is a tiny split-shot sinker added about two feet ahead of the hook. Though the rigs seems fragile and vulnerable, the hook is strong enough to hold even a 30 pound tuna without straightening and the line is seldom cut by the tuna's small teeth. Besides, tuna, unlike blues, do not chop at the bait. They take their meals with finesse.

Stripes along upper part of body help identify this speedster as a bonito. Skipjacks have stripes running along lower half of body.

Baiting up for bonito is equally simple. A young butterfish, the smaller the better, is rigged through the hard ridge framing its eyes, and then in the shoulder, so that only the hook's point and eye are exposed. Spearing and smelt are rigged in the same manner as for fluke: the hook is inserted through the eyes or through the mouth and out the gill cover, and then near the tail. An angler I know hooks smelt through the head, and then hides the hook inside the gill cover. Smelt, however, tend to float and attract birds, and for this reason fishermen pinch its belly, which expels trapped air and gases. Another experienced bonito angler I met has a better method for rigging smelt: he cuts a split shot sinker into the tiniest fragments and stuffs them past the smelt's vomer and down its gullet. Rigged this way, the bait is not mangled; it remains natural looking as it drifts just under the surface.

I find fishing for bonito with bait more exciting than fishing for them with lures, because the fishing takes place on the surface. In fact, bonito frequently take the bait so close to the

boat, you can actually see them inspecting it, sniffing it and slapping it with their tails. The bait is flipped into the current so that it drifts away from the boat. About 50 feet of line is paid out slowly, with the bail left open. Some people keep the bail closed, but set the drag very light while stripping line. In either case, if nothing happens within 70 feet, the bait should be retrieved and the process started again. The trick is to keep the bait moving continuously, but slowly. In Florida, anglers use the same method when fishing for yellowtail snappers and school dolphin. New York's nighttime bluefish anglers also employ this method.

When a bonito or albacore takes the bait, line races off the fixed spool in great hoops, and you have but a moment to close the bail. A proper drag setting, slightly under the line's breaking point (or thumb pressure on the spool for those using lighter drag settings) ensure a good hook-up. Even though the fish is only a few yards away, he is so quick, you will have a hard time keeping up with him.

Bailing bonito is rare, unless a considerable amount of chum is being distributed from the boat. And that's not likely to happen when everyone else is jigging for blues. Even so, you should land a few of these fish—so long as you come prepared—and the battle will stick in your mind. After all, how often do you have the opportunity to **see** a game fish weighing 4 to 12 pounds rip through bait on the surface a few yards from the boat?

Although bonito constitute the major part of the catch, there are several other members of this family mixed with them: mostly albacore and skipjack. All the tunas have robust, football-shaped bodies and finely tapered rears puncutated by two rows of finlets and a large quarter-moon tail. Tunas are not strictly cold-blooded fish; their body temperature is slightly higher than the surrounding water. Tightly packed blood vessels (which give the meat its rich pink color) work overtime supplying blood rich in oxygen and the energy to sustain great bursts of speed for brief periods.

Bonito are distinguished by a green coloration on top, where wavy lines run parallel to the fish's length. Although I once caught a 9 pound specimen, most bonito weigh 4 to 6 pounds. Mixed in with the bonito are fewer, but larger albacore in the 9 to 12 pound class. The albacore ranges at least as far south as the Florida Keys, where it is called "bonito." Actually, the fish is neither, nor is it a false albacore. It belongs to a family called "little tunas" or "tunnies." Whatever you call it (I'll stick to the local name "albacore"), this fish can move. For the albacore is stouter up front than a bonito, and consequently fights harder. The fish, with its metallic blue-silver sheen, looks like a brightly polished torpedo. Some albacore have no markings; others have bonito-like stripes or vague worm-like blotches like a mackerel's. Faint spots on the belly also identify the species, and a short pectoral fin distinguishes it from the longfin or true albacore.

In the Keys, anglers use albacore for bait. They troll albacore with small leadhead/feather jigs in yellow and convert it to bait for larger game fish, including giants of the tuna family, as well as for mutton, gray and red snappers and various groupers. Floridians find the fish disagreeable as table fare, because its flesh is blood-filled, and for this reason many New Yorkers discard it as well. However, soaking the fillet in a brine solution (Kosher salt and water) for about 24 hours and thoroughly rinsing it expels the blood and makes it palatable.

Last, but not least, skipjack tuna occasionally join the party. Although skipjacks are more plentiful in tropical and subtropical waters, the Atlantic Ocean in our area is warmed in September by the Gulf Stream, and schools of skipjack range from the New York Bight to Montauk. These middle-weight contenders (6 to 9 lbs.) are noted for their longitudinal stripes on the belly side, like upside-down bonitos.

Drifting bait for these miniature tuna occasionally brings forth such larger members as school-sized yellowfins, blackfins, bluefins, and bigeyes. Several years ago, for example, I saw an angler hook a 30 pound yellowfin from the starboard stern and finally bring the torpedo to gaff at the portside bow. A year later, the mates on another south shore boat told me about a 70 pounder taken, oddly enough, in November. In fact, they witnessed the most thrilling sight: a large school of these tunas on the surface, apparently on their way south. The 70 pounder, however, was accidentally taken on a diamond jig, and alas, except for some mangled sand eels the bluefish had disroged, there was no bait aboard (see what I mean?), and the tuna showed no further interest in jigs.

Mind you, I have nothing against bluefish; they're the most aggressive, nastiest small game fish around. But considering that I can catch blues from late-June to mid-November, I'll gladly switch, whenever possible, to fishing for tuna.

By all means, go bluefishing in the summer, especially in the New York Bight. However, when the local reports in this magazine indicate "bones and albies" mixed in with the blues, any time between mid-August and early-October, you'll know what to do. You might call the party boat of your choice and inquire about the kind of bait they have in stock for night fishing. If they only have mackerel or bunker, you will have to bring your own bait, since strip baits are not suitable for bonito. A pack of spearing or smelt, or a few butterfish, is no great expense. That party boat skippers don't want to bother with bonito is their business. Make bonito fishing your business.

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TROLLING RIG FOR GIANT BLUEFINS

by Capt. Tom DePersia & Tim Coleman

One of the northeast's best tuna men shares his formula for taking giant bluefins.

The rig you are about to look at is an adaption by Captain Tom DePersia, a Green Harbor charter captain, of a rig developed over 20 years ago by Bob and John Woods of Provincetown, Ma. The idea of the rig then obviously isn't new, and it's been used for many years with real squid. But now artificial squid is causing the rig to become more and more popular. A similar rig is produced commercially. The general rig, used either with real or plastic squid, has been very hot on Stellwagen Bank and Cape Cod Bay for many years now.

Be prepared to spend a few bucks if you go about making one up. You'll need four of the 12 inch Moldcraft squids and eight of the 9 inch size, plus leader, hooks, etc. It ain't cheap! The commercial rig is going for about $120 per pop we were told.

Tom usually trolls four of these rigs. Two are put out on flat lines; the other two on outriggers. Rigs are staggered in the wake, but generally you want something like a V-shaped mass of squid going out from the Stren. Everyone trolls different lengths of line, but Tom usually has the last squid at the point of the V no more than 100 feet behind the boat. Closest rig is trolled only 30 feet behind. You want all squid to skip across the surface.

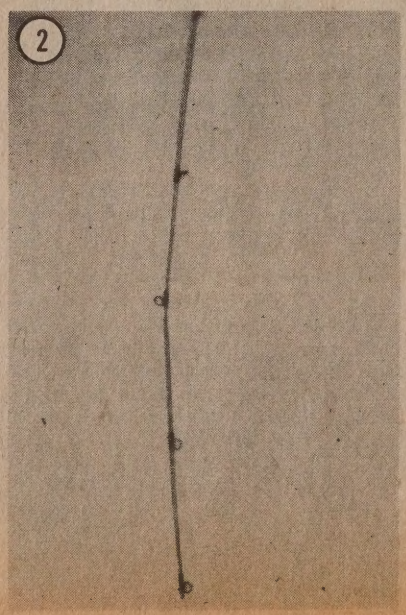
Making one of these trolling rigs is an involved process as we found out when we visited Green Harbor to take some pictures. Anybody with questions should drop a note care of The Fisherman. Oh, one last point. After you've got some made up, watch for bluefish. They'll bite right through the rubber in a hurry, leaving you to start from scratch.

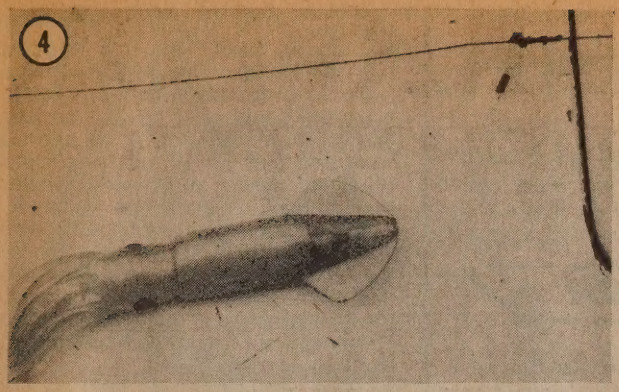
Photo One: Here's Tom again with the finished product. Since making this rig is a fairly involved process, we thought we'd run two pictures of the completed setup from different angles to give readers a better idea how it looks. Photo twelve shows a finished rig laying on a dock float.

Photo Two: First step is to take two 36 inch long pieces of 1/8 inch stainless steel welding rod available from welding supply houses. Lash them together with pieces of waxed string or Johnson & Johnson Dentatape available in drug stores. As you tie the two pieces together, put in five good quality split rings about the size of a dime. Make sure you space the rings evenly or the rig will dip to one side when trolled. Put four rings on the underside of the bar; the fifth one in the middle of the bar on top. Tie the rings on by running the string through the ring, then crisscrossing it around the bars. After wrapping a couple times, tie a couple tight overhand knots. Continue wrapping the string around just the bars with more crisscrossing, with more overhand knots every third or so crisscross. After doing this for about one inch along the bars you'll have the rings and bars up against each other very snugly.

Photo Three: Now you must make up a daisy chain rig, using four 12 inch squid. Tom uses 15 feet of 400 pound test, single strand wire for this step. The length of the wire from the two welding rods to the last squid down should be about 8 feet. At that 8 foot distance up the wire, the wire is attached to the middle split ring on the bars with a snap swivel that's been lashed to the wire with the crisscross method (photo seven). On the end of the last 7 feet of the 400 pound test wire you make a loop using a Haywire Twist. The line from the rod is then attached to that loop. Squid are placed at two foot intervals from the bottom squid which has the hook in it (photo six). The squid are

(Continued on page 24.)

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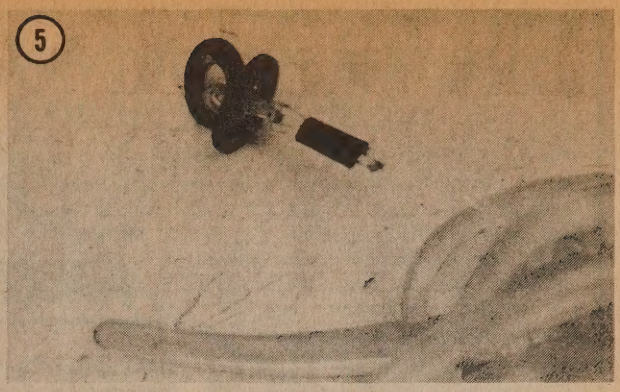
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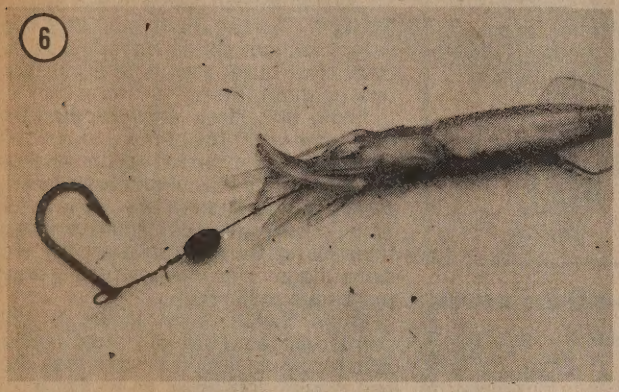
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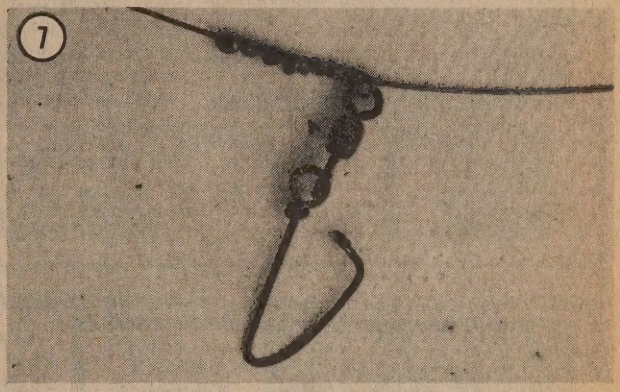
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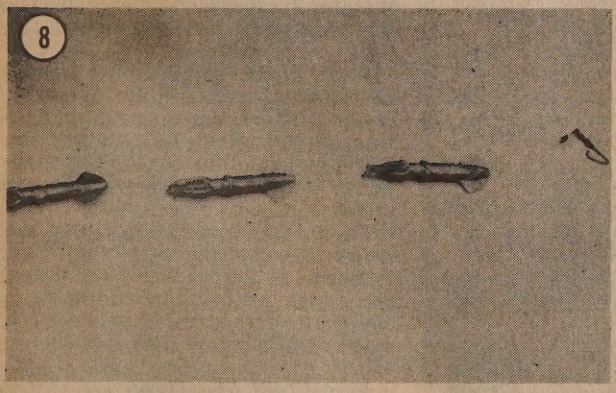
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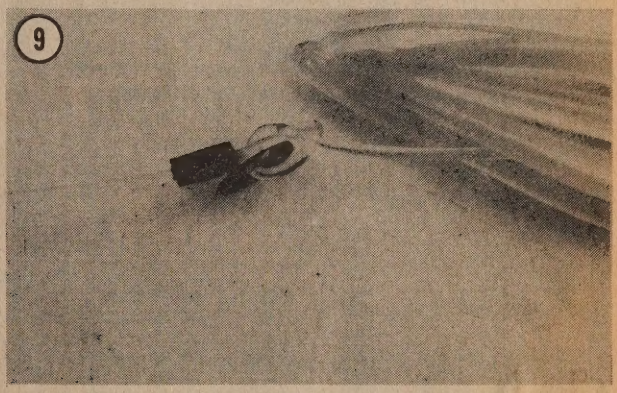
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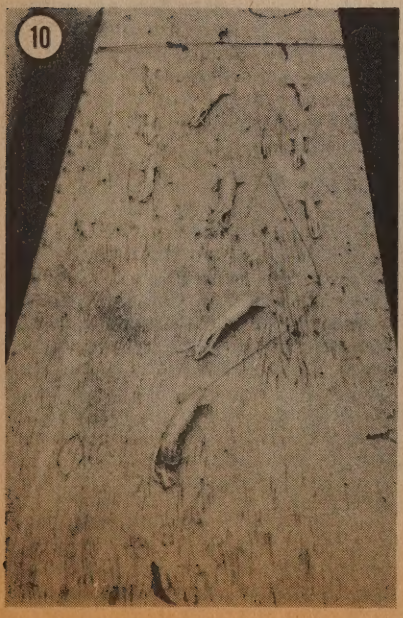
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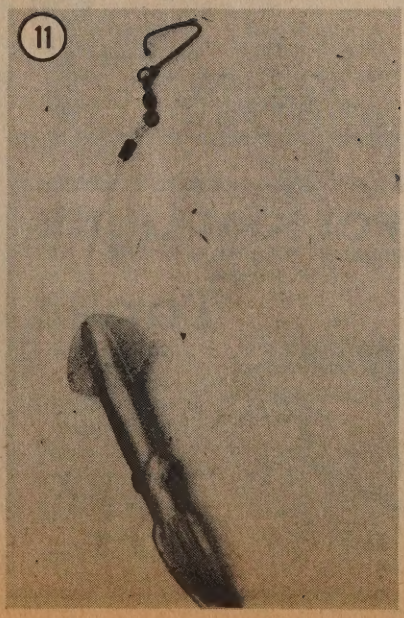
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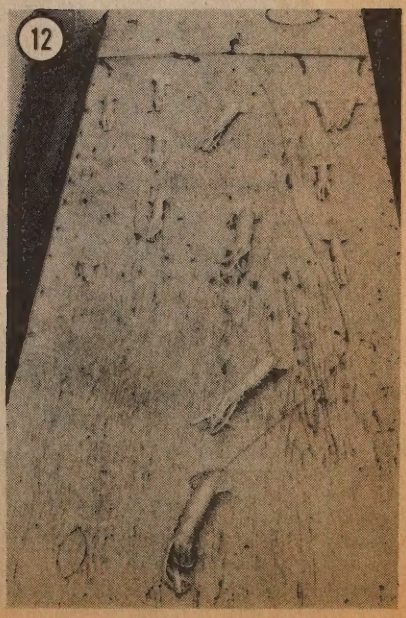
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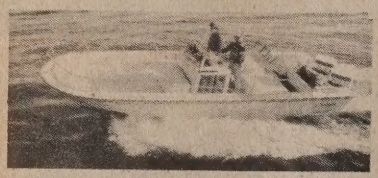

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attached to the wire with lengths of 300 pound leader material (photos four and five). The length of the leader can vary a bit, but Tom likes to have the squid up from the bottom one on a 12 inch piece. The one up from that gets an 18 inch piece and the squid closest to the welding bars is rigged on a 24 inch piece of leader.

Photo Four: Squid are rigged on the 400 pound wire by putting an offshore loop in the mono, then crimping the line. Using more of the waxed string, the loop is lashed to the wire using the crisscross knot described in photo two caption.

Photo Five: Squid are held on the 12, 18 and 24 inch pieces of 300 pound leader by looping the line around two brass washers set at right angles to each other. Last step is to crimp the line as shown here.

Photo Six: Hook used in the last squid shown in photo three is a 10/0 Mustad hook attached to the end of the wire with a Haywire Twist. Before sliding a squid down the wire, first put on a two ounce egg sinker to keep the squid down in the water a bit. To camouflage the hook, Tom spray paints it a dull yellow.

Photo Seven: This shows a 120 pound test snap swivel lashed to the 400 pound wire 8 feet up from the squid with the hook in it. Once in place on the wire, snap the swivel in the middle split ring on the welding bars.

Photo Eight: Next we have to make up three foot lengths of the 300 pound leader to run three 9 inch squid down from each of the two split rings closest to the middle of the bar. On the other end of the mono put a snap swivel and crimp it in place.

Photo Nine: Squid on the three foot length of leader (photo eight) are held in place by looping the line around one brass washer then crimping a sleeve underneath it. This keeps the squid from slipping downward when trolled.

Photo Ten: This shows the rig on the dock float next to Tom's boat. You see here the 15 foot section of 400 pound wire in place and the three foot sections with three smaller squid attached to both inside split rings.

Photo Eleven: Next to last step is to make up a 12 inch section of the same 300 pound leader using just one squid each to hang from both outside split rings. A crimped snap swivel goes on one end of the leader, a small squid on the other. Squid are held in place by using the two washers at 90 degree angle described in photo five caption.

Photo Twelve: Last step is to attach the two 12 inch pieces to the outside rings. You are now ready to fish. Just pray you don't run into a school of blues which can reduce the squid to tatters in a short while. If all this looks complicated with fake squid, just imagine people used to do something similar with real squid. It literally took hours to prepare and was sometimes torn apart the first pass. If you've made it this far, you're a dedicated tuna fisherman and we wish you well.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 **SWORDFISHES'** LARGE EYES ARE A TESTIMONY TO THEIR LIFE IN THE DIMLY LIT DEPTHS WHERE THEY FEED AT DEPTHS EXCEEDING---

500 FT. ☐
1000 FT. ☐
1500 FT. ☐

2 **HEAD COLOR** IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SELECTING THE RIGHT JIG.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

3 **IDENTIFY** THESE FLIES AS TO THEIR CATEGORY...

A-ROYAL COACHMAN

B-MUDDLER MINNOW

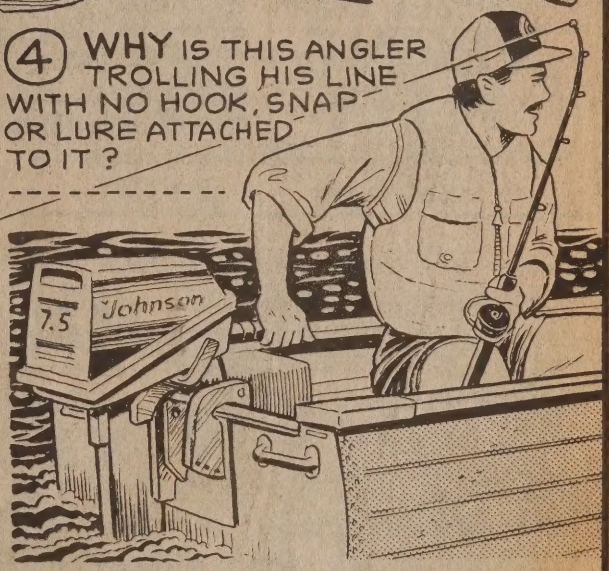
C-STONE FLY

D-HARE'S EAR

E-CORK POPPER

DRY FLY ☐
STREAMER ☐
NYMPH ☐ WET FLY ☐ BASS BUG ☐

4 **WHY** IS THIS ANGLER TROLLING HIS LINE WITH NO HOOK, SNAP OR LURE ATTACHED TO IT ?



5 **THIS HIGHLY EDIBLE** FIGHTING FISH IS THE LEAST KNOWN OF ALL UNITED STATES PANFISH. IT IS A ____

SACRAMENTO PERCH ☐
SPOTTED PERCH ☐
RIO GRANDE PERCH ☐

6 **WHAT PARTS** OF THE HUMAN BODY DO SHARKS BITE THE MOST WHEN PROVOKED OR DEFENDING THEIR TERRITORY, A READER ASKS?

1-1000 FT. DOWN. 2-FALSE. WEIGHT, HOOK SIZE, THE COLOR AND TYPE OF DRESSING ARE PROBABLY ALL MORE IMPORTANT. 3-(A)DRY FLY, (B) STREAMER, (C) NYMPH, (D) WET FLY, (E) BASS BUG. 4-TO TAKE THE KINKS OUT OF A TWISTED LINE. 5-RIO GRANDE PERCH FOUND ONLY IN TEXAS. 6-SHARKS USUALLY STRIKE THE EXTREMITIES IN THIS ORDER: LEGS, THIGHS, ARMS, FEET, HANDS AND WAIST.

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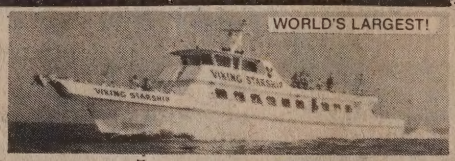

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East End REPORT

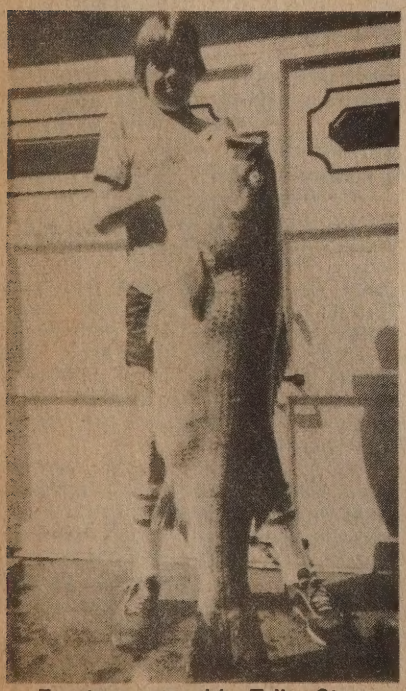
with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

School tuna, with most anglers catching their limit, have moved into the traditional tuna grounds south of the Point, along with some very large bluefish. Fluke seem to be leaving, however, several doormats were taken off Montauk before the weekend's storm. Blackfish are showing up in better numbers and sizes in the Peconics and Shinnecock offshore wrecks, and Long Island Sound. Snappers very plentiful and large. Try for blueclaw crabs!

MONTAUK

A rigged butterfish, fished south of the Point was taken by a 600 lb. tuna on the "Magician" on Sept. 9th. The angler, 13 year old Keith Hunt fought the fish for 2 hours and 45 minutes on 130 lb. tackle. A reminder to sign up for the Full Moon Bass Tournament which will be held at the **Montauk Marine Basin** from noon October 5th to Monday October 8th. Entry fee, $20.

Joan at **Captain's Cove Marina**



Fourteen-year-old Erik Storc struggles with the huge 61 lb. striper he boated at Montauk aboard his dad's boat Caprice. The big cow gobbled a live mackerel back in August.

MONTAUK

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remarked that fluking seems to be slowing down now, however, early last week doormats of 11 and 14 lbs. were caught by Capt. Barry Kohlus on the "Venture II" fishing the south side, and using live snappers for bait. On Sunday, Bob Lombardi and his family fished on "Little Miss Lisa" for flounder at Colloden Point with a bycatch of 17 nice blowfish. Porgies are on and off. The main action last week was in school tuna, with most boats catching their limit of bluefins in the 30-50 lb. range, with a few to approximately 150 lbs. Capt. Chuck Mallinson captured a giant tuna of 500 lbs. over the weekend, however, most of the action on the **Joy-Sea** has been in school tuna. Capt. Joe McBride switched from tuna to bluefish over the weekend because of bad sea and weather conditions. The **My Mate** fished Shagwong with the Baron Moore family for all the blues they wanted. Capt. McBride asked me to tell you that he has an open tuna date on Saturday, because of a cancelation. Call him for further information.

Late Sunday the Butterfish hole was invaded by monster blues, taking tuna bait, according to Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina**. Inshore, Chris Gajajivie found the porgies slow, however, a weakfish of 16 lbs. 11 ozs. jumped on his porgy bait fishing on the "Serenity". Fluke were pretty good on the south side, off the Radar Station and Ditch Plains with largest fish generally 8-10 lbs., early in the week. A 15 pound fluke was landed by Walter while fishing with "Mac" McTartland. Stephanie and Rick Morgano loaded up with blues in the 5-10 lb. range fishing the Point. Nordic eels took bonita.

Word from the **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud**: Diana has come and gone, however the effect was good fishing but lost business last week. Lots of large porgies have moved in in numbers. The **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud** did not sail in the weekend's northeast breeze but will be going every day from now on for the porgy enthusiast!

Windy weekend weather slowed down fishing action out of **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** according to Charlott. Uihlein flounders in Lake Montauk remained a reliable standby in bad weather. Before the blow, porgies were picking up, and blues were within reach of rental boats.

Captain Betty Forsberg remarked that the school tuna fishing is so good that the **Starship** will sail every day ex-cept Saturday for these fish on a reservations only basis, 35 person limit. On Sunday, the pool tuna, an 88 lb. bluefin, was caught by Ernie Golas of Ebensberg Pa. Walter Bohnen-

The Wiese party had 15 weaks and a mess of blues on jigs and tubes during a charter aboard Montauk based, "Vivienne."

berger of East Meadow took the $1,300 pool with a 48 lb. cod caught at Georges Banks on the **Viking**'s last offshore trip. Cox's Ledge cod remains very good with the pool fish usually in the 30 lb. range. Because of slowdown in fishermen, the **Viking Fleet** will fish Noman's land porgies only on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday and will fish locally for porgies the rest of the time. Night bluefishing is tremendous with pool fish generally in the high teens.

Highlights of the Easter George's Banks trip on the **Starship** will be featured on Fishing Forecast on Friday. Join me on Brookhaven Cable TV on Friday, 6PM; Saturday, 5PM, Channel 6.

Captain Bob Sztork found bass fishing on the full moon pretty slow this month. However, blues and tuna are providing lots of action on the **Caprice**. Early in the week, Eric Nyman and Bernie Shults had a good catch of Cartwright blues, to 15 lbs., then fished the Butterfish Hole for tuna, where light tackle and jigs provided good sport fishng. The group landed 5 tuna to 45 lbs., hooked up with over 10. On Thursday, Dr. Bob DeVita and his party used jugs and bait for blues to 14 lbs. again at Cartwright.

Captain Fred Laier has been having tremendous success with bait or small tuna on the **Eagle**. Sunday's charter with Bob Aspen of the 77th Precinct landed 13 tuna in the 30 to 70 lb. range. Several weeks ago, bluefin and yellowfin up to 85 lbs. were taken daily, with Fred's mate, Shorty, landing a 68 lb. yellowfin; her first. Call Capt. Laier at 422-4441 for Eagle Charter information.

Captain Mike Albronde reports the best school tuna of the year this past week with as many as 28 fish taken each day on bait and jigs on the **Montauk.** Most fish are in the 25 to 80 lb. range.

Last Monday, Allan and Vickey Brown with pat and Nancy O'Connor tried light tackle (8 to 30 lb. test outfits) on the **Mako Express**. Although many fish were lost on the lighter lines, and a fly line was stripped completely, the group did land a few bluefin to 45 lbs. I joined Glenn Pickel and John Catelli (C&B Tackle) and Vickey and Allen Brown (Vassmers Bait/Tackle, White Lake, NY) on Wednesday on the **Mako Express** with Capt. Zac Grossman. We jigged and baited bluefin to 50 lbs. on light tackle.

Captain Paul Stern boated two giants last week on the **Tuna Tangler**, fish of 647 and 673 lbs., with his mate, Dawn, on the rod.

Captain John DeMaio has been fishing mainly at night for weakfish to 8 lbs., school bass and blues using plugs on the **Vivienne**. Looks like a good fall run of fish coming up.

A recent charter on the **Windy** by members of the Patchogue Fishing Club, Neil, George and Andy, saw each angler catch his limit of school tuna.

This week's tuna action on the **Adios** was excellent on school tuna with most days bagging the limit of four per angler. Rod Newhart of Hilton, N.Y. and Joseph Giglio of Bellmore caught and released tuna from 30 to 50 lbs. on a charter this week. Captain Lewis remarked that since the storm on Sunday, many larger fish appeared to have moved into the tuna grounds, as evidenced by marks on recorder paper. This good tuna action is expected to last through the middle of October. Call for information on charter dates.

SOUTH FORK

Porgy fishing on the **Wilhelric**, berthed in Sag Harbor remains excellent, with more and more bluefish taking porgy bait. The **Wilhelric** will switch full time for bluefish on September 23. This is your last chance to fill your freezer with porgies!

Fluke remain strong at Cartwright Island according to Chris Salb at **Bayview Marine and Tackle** in Sag Harbor, with good catches also in Napeague Bay. Plenty of blues at Crow Shoals. Chris remarked that many small (shorts) striped bass have come into local waters. Small flounder were caught this weekend in Sag Harbor Cove. **Bayview Marine and Tackle** will be closed this weekend for boat rentals, although open in the morning for bait and tackle sales, due to marriage: Chris Salb and Lori Hasselberger. Congratulations!

Thom Speckenbach spoke of good fluke remaining at the south side of

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Gardiner's Island, with 20 to 30 keepers per boat, up to 18 inches, brought into **Speck's Bait and Tackle** on Sunday after the blow. Blue claw crabs are always worth trying for. Some east end areas to try include Mecox Bay, Shinnecock Bay, Heddy Creek, Bullhead Bay (off Sebonac Inlet) and North Sea Harbor, according to Thom.

Not much action offshore because of weather according to Mickey at **Altenkirch & Son** in Hampton Bays. However, six year old Brian Herman while fishing with his dad, Bob, on "Captain Liver," did hook and land a 13 lb. 8 oz. bluefish. Bob tried a little codfishing on the Shinnecock wrecks and did catch an 11½ lb. cod. The fish was attacked by a bluefish as it was brought to the boat. The bluefish ate the tail of the cod, the anglers got the rest! There are still enough fluke to make it worthwhile, however, more and more flounder are coming into the picture. Snappers are fat and sassy, with the Shinnecock Canal a red hot spot. One angler alone caught over 100 large snappers on Sunday on light spinning tackle from the side of the canal, remarking that each cast was good for one fish.

The Peconic Bay still holds plenty of small to medium porgies with summer weaks spotty this week. Blackfish are starting to move in. ON Tuesday, Don Sheeby topped off a bucket of porgies caught on the **Jenny Rose** with two weakfish to 2½ lbs. and a 3 lb. 2 oz. blackfish. On Wednesday, the offshore action produced plenty of sea bass from 1½ to

Steve Nadell, fishing aboard the Montauk charter boat, "Tuna Tangler',, landed this 650 lb. giant bluefin in August.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	3:55	4:15	4:40	5:10	4:20	4:55	5:45	6:00	7:05	7:30	7:25	7:45	4:05	4:30	9/20
FRI.	5:05	5:25	5:40	6:10	5:40	6:05	6:40	6:55	8:20	8:40	8:20	8:45	5:00	5:25	9/21
SAT.	6:05	6:25	6:40	7:10	6:40	7:00	7:35	7:50	9:30	9:55	9:20	9:40	5:55	6:20	9/22
SUN.	7:00	7:15	7:35	8:00	7:35	7:55	8:25	8:45	10:25	10:45	10:15	10:35	6:45	7:10	9/23
MON.	7:50	8:05	8:30	8:50	8:20	8:40	9:10	9:35	11:15	11:35	11:05	11:25	7:35	8:00	9/24
TUES.	8:35	8:55	9:20	9:40	9:10	9:30	10:00	10:25	—	12:00	11:50	12:20	8:25	8:50	9/25
WED.	9:20	9:40	10:05	10:30	9:55	10:20	10:45	11:15	12:30	12:45	—	12:40	9:10	9:35	9/26
THURS.	10:10	10:30	10:55	11:20	10:45	11:10	11:35	12:10	1:20	1:35	1:10	1:30	10:05	10:25	9/27

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/20	6:45	6:59
FRI. 9/21	6:46	6:58
SAT. 9/22	6:47	6:57
SUN. 9/23	6:48	6:56
MON. 9/24	6:50	6:54
TUE. 9/25	6:51	6:52
WED. 9/26	6:52	6:50

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 9/20	—	4:35AM
FRI. 9/21	1:58AM	5:19AM
SAT. 9/22	3:13AM	5:57AM
SUN. 9/23	4:32AM	6:29AM
MON. 9/24	5:51AM	6:58AM
TUE. 9/25	7:09AM	7:26AM
WED. 9/26	8:27AM	7:55AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
9/25	10/1	10/9	10/17

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	1:15	7:30	1:40	8:00
Fri.	2:15	8:20	2:35	8:50
Sat.	3:05	9:15	3:25	9:45
Sun.	4:00	10:10	4:20	10:35
Mon.	4:50	11:00	5:10	11:25
Tues.	5:40	11:45	5:55	—
Wed.	6:30	12:15	6:55	12:45
Thurs.	7:20	1:10	8:00	1:45

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2 P.M. - ½ DAY FLOUNDER
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7 P.M. BLUES

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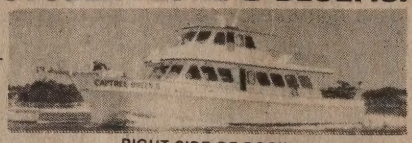

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3½ lbs. with blackfish moving in. Tony Sabota of Riverhead, took the pool with a 7½ lb. blackfish.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Though fluke still remain the major part of the inshore scene blackfish and flounder are beginning to gather plenty of attention. Particularly the tautogs which have been providing some of the best early fall action in a number of years. Offshore fishing was pretty much nonexistant this past week due to the weather and bluefishing seems to have settled into typical fall pattern of plenty of big fish.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Very good fluking in the East and West Cuts near the inlet according to Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**. Gary added that the keeper ratio has improved to 1:2 this past week. On Sunday Joe Sanders and Matt and John Viol kept 25 summer flatties up to 3 pounds. The flounder fishing is coming to life in the deep water near buoys 34 and 36. One boat had 25 nice keepers on Saturday. A few more cool nights and Gary expects the fish to show on the flats. In the hole SE of buoy 43 there have been some good catches of sea bass and some small porgies on worms.

Rosemary Fedorco filed the report for the **Moriches** open boat **Alma III**.

Bob Follo and Bert Jeal landed 12 fluke and 40 flounder during a recent trip aboard the Moriches Bay open boat, "Alma II."

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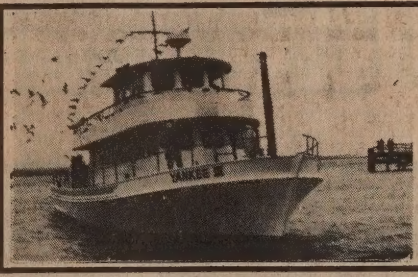

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Willie and John Schenerman, ages 10 and 16, jigged a load of blues in the 10 to 17 lb. range aboard the Lindenhurst charter boat, "Fishfinder." Fishing was done in 50 feet of water south of Cherry Grove.

She said that fluking remains good with 60 percent of the fish keepers. The skipper has been combining his fluke trips with flounder and some blackfishing as well. There has been some excellent blackfishing at the Elbow where Myron Goldstein landed an 8 pounder on a worm. Some bluefish are mixing in on fluke trips at the inlet and there are lots of small blowfish taking worms baits while floundering.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Still fair numbers of small weaks along with some big fish in the bay off of Sayville through the end of last week according to Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Flounder showed off of the Patchogue Dock this week with one customer checking in with 2 big keepers. He also returned several small flatties. He used worms. Flounder fishing also coming to live in Moriches Bay and in the Sore Thumb pocket at F.I. Inlet. Kismet Reef appears to be loaded with blackfish including some real quality fish. Several customers reported making very good scores there this past week. Use green crabs for quality and fiddlers for quantity. Snapper fishing from the local docks has quieted down considerably.

Al Colban of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** mentioned Browns River, Ocean Beach and West Channel for weaks in the 2-4 pound range on squid strips or worms. Fluke remain thick from the lighthouse to the RM Bridge with some blowfish beginning to mix with them. Some bigger fluke are being taken along the Oak Beach shore on incoming water with live snappers. The Oak Beach reef has been producing lots of sea bass and blackfish. Kismet Reef has also been the scene of some very good blackfish action. On the freshwater scene, Connetquot State Park has been surrendering some big trout of late while across the way, Bubbles and Rattles have produced some nice fish as well.

Irene Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** noted the very good blackfishing at Kismet and told of one

Irene Cioffi of **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip** noted the very good blackfishing at Kismet and told of one

customer that used both fiddlers and green crabs to take 61 tautogs on Sunday. Fluke remain strong from the Light to the Inlet on imcoming water and small flounder are being taken from the Sore Thumb Pocket. Irene reminded that they now have live eels in stock for you bass hounds.

Super blackfishing at Kismet and the Oak Beach Reef according to Carl Miller of **Smokeys Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore**. As evidence of the fishing, Carl told of Carmine Donaruma and his crew of three who put 66 blacks up to 6 pounds aboard his boat Bali on Sun-

BABYLON

Fourteen-year-old John Santucci of Great River with a big weakfish taken in Great South Bay.

day. They fished the Oak Beach area and in addition to the blacks had 25 porgies, 8 flounder and 16 sea bass from 2 to 2½ pounds. They used fiddler crabs and clams. Carl weighed blacks to 7½ pounds from the Kismet Reef this week and added that lots of sea bass and small porgies are being taken here also. Still lots of fluke in the inlet area on the flood tide and plenty of big snappers from Oakdale to Bay Shore on the docks. Many range between 9 and 12 inches long. Outside the inlet, there are schools of bonito and albacore roaming between the pound nets and 80' of water.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** spoke of good fluke on Sunday from the WR Buoy to the Bridge. Due to customer demand, Neil has switched over to blackfish and has been sailing 7:30 AM daily since Monday.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the **Captree** open boat **Miss Captree** also put in a word for fluke noting that action was very good through the weekend. He too however, feels its time to make the switch to porgies, blackfish and sea bass. He'll be working ocean wrecks and reefs on full day trips 7AM daily.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** who annually makes the switch to sea bass, porgies and blacks around this time announced that he will begin chasing these bottom gamesters as of Friday, September 21st. Aside from that, fluke remain very good despite declining interest and night bluefishing has been nothing short of super. Despite Saturday's weather, the boat had an excellent catch of all big fish on Saturday night at the Patchogue Grounds.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** repeated Charlie's report of wild fishing on night trips but added that daytime action has been very good as well. As an added treat on the day runs Speedy has been chumming and providing bait for anglers looking to tangle with albacore and bonito which have been thick this past week. Sunday was a particularly good day for these two speedsters as well as the blues. Bluefish have been ranging anywhere from 5 to 19 pounds depending on the day. Bigger fish are predominating now however.

Aboard the **Captree** charter boat **Prime Time**, Capt. Joe DiLiberto said that 19 anglers from the Peter Frasse group suffered through Saturday's wind and rain but still managed a good catch of blackfish to 6 pounds. They had a high percentage of 2-3 pound fish as well as a few sea bass, 1 fluke, 2 flounder and a mess of sand porgies. On Sunday, the Kismet Reef produced some very nice blackfish to over 7 pounds for a group from Hollis Masonic Lodge. The group did a real nice job on blacks averaging 3 pounds with some nice 5-6 pounders as well. Best action was had on the first of the flood in the morning.

Fluking remains excellent with 8-15 keepers a man. This was the word from Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** who added he expects another couple of weeks of good fluking. He too spoke of super night bluefishing and asked that we remind customers that he will make a switch from fluke to flounder on his 2PM trips only beginning on Saturday.

Very good bluefishing day and night, all week long according to Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3**. Big blues are on the wrecks while there is a mixture of blues, albacore and bonito on open bottom.

Bill Stramenzzi of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** noted fluking remains good and flounder are beginning to attract some attention in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Lots of blackfish

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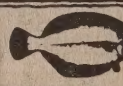
BAIT  BOATS
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on the Kismet Reef on fiddler and green crabs and plenty of snappers on the docks. No reports of anyone getting offshore this weekend but Artie Orlando and crew aboard the Fast Eddie did troll some big blues and false albacore along the beach east to Moriches Inlet.

Mike Andreani said that young Raymond Frank was the proudest angler to stop into the shop this week. The source of his pride was a 1 pound perch taken from the Connetquot River while fishing with his dad Bob. Mike also extolled the blackfishing at Kismet and added the Robert Moses Bridge as well to his list of blackfish spots. Still good fluking from the Lighthouse to the Inlet and Mike looked over a catch of 26 nice flounder taken from the Sore Thumb pocket on Thursday. Big blues are between the Lighthouse and Patchogue from 40 feet of water on out. They are being jigged and trolled. Big snappers in good supply from local docks and a few big crabs now around.

Al Smith checked in a good catch of blackfish, averaging 3 pounds, taken over a piece of wreckage near the RM Bridge on Sunday. This via Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague**. Ralph told of very good scores made at Kismet as well. Bloodworms are taking small weaks in the Copiague Hole while action with the big tiderunners near the WR Buoy tapered off to a trickle this past week. Plenty of fluke with a few more keepers around in the inlet area and flounder getting started in the deeper holes of the State Channel and in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Fred Hagemeyer had what may be one of the last makos of the season unless the weather does a turnabout. He had an 80 pounder at the NA Buoy on Sunday.

Bob Rose speaking from **Bob's Bait**

Matthew, Roberta and Andrew, from Scotty's Fishing Station in Point Lookout, show off a pair of fluke taken from the station's dock.

and Tackle in **Amity Harbor** said that good fluking still exists as far back in the bay as the State Channel. Very good flounder catches at Tobay in the State Channel and fair catches at the Sore Thumb indicate change is in the wind. Most of the flatties are ¾ to 1 pound with sandworms and mussels taking the fish. West Channel and Ocean Beach have a mixture of sea bass and porgies while blackfishing is excellent at all bridges, the Sore Thumb and Kismet. Many of the fish average in the 2 pound class but there have been lots of 6-7 pounders reported. On Friday, the Smith Family had nearly 100 flounder, some blowfish and a few weaks on sandworms fished from the Oak Beach shore.

From **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**, Frank reported a catch of 15 nice flounder made at Bergen Point by Charlie Mouton on Friday. He returned 10 smaller fish. There is a nice mixed bag of porgies, small weaks and sea bass in West Channel on strips of squid or sandworms. Lots of nice blackfish being taken on green crabs near the State Channel drawbridge.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

It has been an excellent week for fall mixed bag fishing with continued excellent bluefish, an unreal blitz of giant tuna at Mud Hole west, continued good fluking and good showings of flounder, sea bass , blacks and porgies. Still a zillion snappers in the bay and what happened to the bccs, no one knows.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

A call to **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** in Seaford produced info on the fluke that are still around at Goose Creek, Sloop Channel and Jones Inlet. Flounder have started to fill out bags at Four Corners, the Third Wantagh and the Big M. Snappers being caught throughout the bay and blackfish are good items at the 3rd Wantagh and Big M. Fiddlers and green crabs have been working best. Bluefishing still very strong for those utilizing umbrellas and jigs in 40 to 60 feet of water.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** told of good mixed bags in the Merrick area consisting of fluke at Merrick Point and Rowboat Alley, snappers everywhere and small flounder, porgies and a few sea bass in Broad Creek and Sloop Channel. Flounder are running 3/4 lb. average and are small and fat. Richie Koch on his boat Libra bagged a 540 lb. giant at the Mud Hole this week.

Out of Freeport, the **Captain Al** said that aside from a tough day bluefishing Saturday due to the rough seas and strong rain, everyday this week right through Sunday his fares had slaughter bluefishing. Sunday's super fishing was off Debs and Lido. It was excellent all week on 1 to 6 lb. fish said Al. This has all been on the day trips on jigs. Night trips have been hot and cold on both large and small fish with some nights producing large numbers and some nights catches being off. The day bluefishing has been just super Al reported and they are extremely close in.

From the **Starstream II**, skipper Richie Kessinger advised that the daytime bluefishing has been consistently good all week on 2 to 5 lbers. on jigs fishing anywhere from Long Beach to Playland. Nights have been hot and cold on chum and bait.

From the **Capt. Andy II** we hear of very good flounder fishing now with high hooks in the 20s and 30s each trip. Everything is local and fish are hitting on both tides, said the skipper.

The word from Capt. Tony Maio of

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the **Miss Freeport II** was of very good flounder fishing this week with good fishermen bagging up with anywhere from 20 to 30 good flounder per man. Sizes have been fair but are improving. The boat's night bluefish trips have been producing nicely with light crowds making the fishing easier and fish just a short ride out from the inlet.

Aboard the charter boat **Lady J III** this week all trips have been for blues with diamonds accounting for fish 1 to 7 pounds, some weaks to 10 lbs., and some albies to 8 lbs. Fishing is 3 to 4 miles SW of the inlet in 40 feet of water west to Playland. Monday's trip was for the Tom McCarthy group of Hicksville. Tuesday's trip was for the New City Fire Department. Wednesday's charter was for the John Hammer group of Harrison, NY and on Friday it was bluefishing for Chicago Title Co. On Friday night it was a trip for Nick's Tuna Club, Merrick and on Saturday the boat sailed West Hempstead Fire Dept. Saturday night's trip was for Brooklyn Union Gas and Sunday for Forest Valley Tavern, Locust Valley.

Aboard the **Bluefin Fleet** this week, skipper Sy Carlin told of a great week of bluefishing close in to Jones Inlet for fish up to 12 lbs., all on diamonds. High hook of the week was Frank Scherma with 38 blues. Glen Meyer of Chase Manhattan Bank had 26. Weather permitting said the skipper the night trips have been very good also, with larger fish at night. Hempstead angler Steve Lopez caught in the mid-30s this week.

We also heard from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** that the blues have been excellent all week to three miles out, both east and west of Jones Inlet. Diamond jigs have been accounting for bags of fish. Cholera has been one hotspot. The **Super Spray II** has been catching solid on sea bass, porgies and blacks on hard bottom, rocks and close in wrecks and has been loading up on the night blues. Larger fish are being found at 17 and Middle Grounds, with smaller fish inshore.

A call from the charter boat **Capt. Gary** told of his last three trips. Saturday's was for St. Mary's Church, Bellmore on flounder, porgies and sea bass taken around the bridges. Saturday's night blue trip was for Frank Santora and friends while on Sunday Score Oil Co. had a good pick on blues.

Over in Pt. Lookout we learn from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** that the fall floundering is off to a very good start. Regular Eric Olsen had 130 flounder on three morning trips. Harry Sandbach boated 30 flounder. On Tuesday, Bob Zotanski had 40 flounder and 2 fluke. Bob returned Wednesday for another 30 flatties and a 5 lb. weak, while Ralph Anastasio and Don Davis settled for 40 flounder each. Regular Jerry boated 30 flatties Friday AM and 37 more Saturday. Mil Loeb and Andy Nelson of College Point had 50 flounder Saturday AM along with a 2½ lb. pool fluke. They returned Sunday AM taking 47 more flatties, while Joe Cypus had 46 and Two Gun Walter 42. Ron says there's a good spread of flounder available. The boat is getting a by-catch of sea bass, porgies and fluke. The boat has completed its night bluefishing, but is still available for night blue charters.

We learn from **Ed's Fishing Station** that the best bet this past week has been blackfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers and green crab. Flounder are in averaging 1/2 to 3/4 lbs., but running up to 2 lbs. Best fluking of the season is going on now, with hotspots the Big M area, CG Station and the Inlet. The Big M is also producing porgies and sea bass for those worming on the bottom. Kenny Almodovar and Steve McMahon of LIC collected 80 flounder between them up to 2 lbs. and 12 blacks fishing the Big M Sunday with worms and chum.

Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** told of Tuesday's bluefish trip for Puritan Fuel Oil. They had excellent blue catches SW of Jones in 40 ft. of water. Fish ran 1 to 3 lbs. They also had 12 weaks from 6 to 12 lbs. with high hook George Naittles

with 43 blues. Diamonds were the ticket. Thursday fishing the same place, the Ira Berger group bailed 2 to 4 lbers. on diamonds averaging 20 to 40 fish a man. Friday it was south of Debs one mile to catch a mess of blues 1 to 2 lbs. 20 to 30 a man on jigs. Dennis said Sunday was one of the best days of the year fishing in the same area. Low hook was 37 blues and high hook 68 with fish 2 to 6 lbs. and fish flying constantly. Each trip has seen 2 to 6 albacore taken in the 5 to 10 lb. range. The boat still has a few open weekdays available.

Word from Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** is that flounder have started with nice catches had by the rental skiffs Sunday in Reynolds and Middle Bay at the top of the tide, Swift Creek through the Big M. Worms and clam or mussel chum have been the ticket. In Saturday's rain, very good blackfishing was had by the rental skiffs working the Meadowbrook and Loops bridges to the tune of 40 to 70 per skiff. A lot of 2 lbers. were taken all on fiddlers and greens. Plenty of blues along the beaches with some bonito and Spanish mackerel mixed in for those trolling umbrellas and working diamonds. Giant tuna at Mud Hole west.

From **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook, Charlie B. had solid reports of plenty of blackfish taken at the Big M, third Wantagh and AB bridges along with the jetties on fiddlers and greens. Big M produced the biggest, to 6 lbs. with lots of 3 to 4 lbers. caught. Plenty of snappers all over with good fluking, possibly the best of the season outside off Playland, Riis and Ambrose channel.

Out of Atlantic Beach, Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to tell of mixed sized blues, with weaks, albies and bonito mixed in. From Atlantic Beach west to Rockaway Playland the bluefishing has been just excellent Ron said in 20 to 50 ft. of water. Trolled umbrellas or

Thompson's Deli sent along this photo of Sue Fass and her first ever bluefish. The 10 lb. chopper was taken on an umbrella rig in 50 feet of water south of the Jones Beach Tower.

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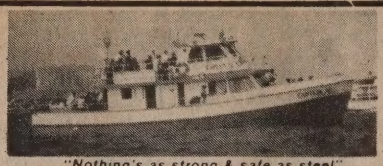

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diamond jigs are doing the job. As of Sunday fluking has been super excellent in Reynolds Channel, the mouth of Debs and west to Riis Park with lots of decent keepers. Giant tuna fishing broke loose at the Mud Hole for those who could brave the weather. Ron says he will be tuna fishing through October.

A call from **Long Beach Sports Marina** advised that flounder have started to take hold throughout Reynolds, with best action on the east side of the ABB, Cedarhurst Yacht Club and behind Duck Point on bloods and chum. The Magnolia Blvd. Pier has also been very good, fish averaging a pound. John Pulser had 10 good flounder up to 2 lbs. and one kingfish off the Magnolia Pier Friday. Some fluke still around, and blackfish are increasing daily in number and size with the best bets being the ABB and the Gong buoy. Weaks and bonito under the bunker schools in Reynolds. The first and last two hours of daylight have been best for this.

From Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in Atlantic Beach we hear of very good fluke off Beach 29th Street in 35 feet of water, at the mouth of Debs and off Playland. These fish are mostly keepers. One to 2 lb. blacks at the ABB on fiddlers. Blues close in on umbrellas in 40 to 50 ft. of water, cocktail size. Larger blues at the buoy 4 area, 3½ miles off the beach and giant tuna at the Mud Hole.

NEW YORK BIGHT

Skippy's Bait and Tackle in East Rockaway says it's mixed bag time in his area. Good sizes and numbers of fluke at Jones and Debs Inlet and off Playland. A showing of flounder at the mouth of Hog Channel, Island Park, fish 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. Small blackfish at the bridges with tons of snappers in Bay Park and lots of bccs way up in the back in East Rockaway Channel. Small sea bass and porgies on any rough deep bottom and plenty of mullet in the surf.

To the west in Sheepshead Bay, Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reports he's been having good blackfishing and porgying working his Jersey coast hotspots. Sunday saw blacks to 7 lbs. brought up and porgies are running from 1 to 1½ lbs.

From Captain Butch of the **Zephyr** comes words of very good fluking all through the week and weekend with fish being caught at Old Orchard Light and catches being really super in Ambrose Channel from keeper size to 7½ lbs. with lots of 4 to 5 lbers. Sunday's catch averaged 10 to 30 keepers a man. One real sharpie on Sunday had 45 keepers including four 5 lb. fish. Still lots of fluke in Jamaica and Raritan Bays and at West Bank. Butch said there should be good fluking well into October if the water stays warm. The bigger fish are here now and this is the best time for fluke freaks.

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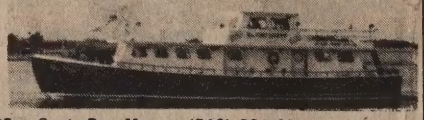

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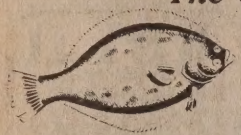

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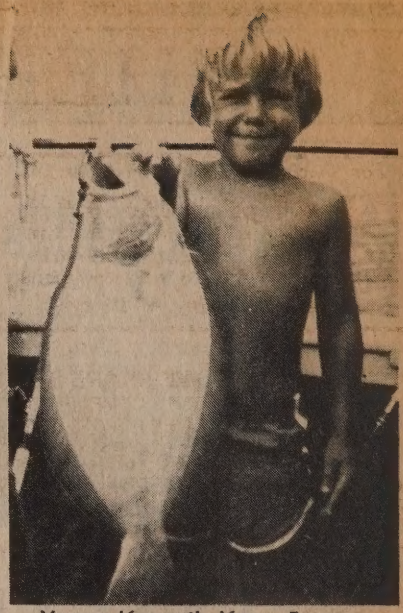
Captain Al Coley on the **Betty W. III** has been having very very good bluefishing all week on both day and night trips with fish running 1 to 3 lbs. The nights are producing larger fish. While the jumbos have not arrived yet, fares are pulling all the fish they can possibly carry off the boat said Al. There's been a few bonito mixed in. Fishing has been local between buoy 4 in Highlands and in back (West Bank and Staten Island).

From Captain Walt Wiegand of the **Flamingo III** also comes word of very good to excellent local bluefishing mainly on the black side of Ambrose and in the back, with fish averaging 3 to 6 lbs. Each trip has had several weakfish mixed in and a couple of legal stripers. A jumbo blue is also bagged now and then.

Sal at **Stella Maris Tackle** told of the hot giant tuna fishing at the second Mud Hole, blackfish on the upswing at the jetties and local wrecks and of very good fluking off Rockaway, in Jamaica Bay and off the Canarsie Pier, plus lots of sand porgies in the bay.



Young Kenneth Kerr, 5-years-old, landed this nice fluke during his first ever fishing trip. He was aboard the Greenport based charter boat, "Nancy Ann," with his dad, Ed.

North Shore REPORT

with Marty Garrell

Adismal Saturday and strong northerlies on Sunday reduced the number of weekend anglers. Still, those who persisted caught their share of summer and fall species. Fluke linger, porgies are larger, and the eastern waters are loaded with early tautog.

WESTERN SOUND

Jack Rumpf at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** told us that the **North Star** had a load of jumbo porgies, and a check with Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** revealed that there were indeed some jumbos to 3 pounds on the reefs and 60 foot edges around Buoys 11B and 24C. The average scup in those areas is a full 1½ pounds, and porgy fishing has picked up by 75 percent. There were smaller porgies off Hart's and the old Fort Slocum area. Blues were savaging bunker schools off Orchard Beach.

Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VIII** described a red hot Friday afternoon on blues off the Stratford Light with all the reefs from Eatons to Norwalk and Stamford producing blues in the 4-18 pound range. Pearson has seen

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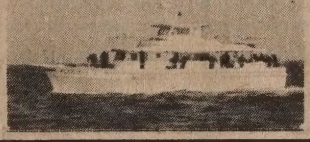

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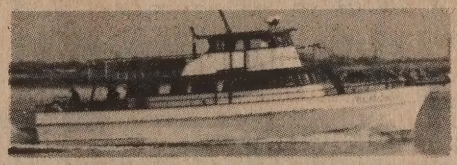

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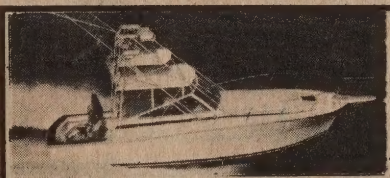

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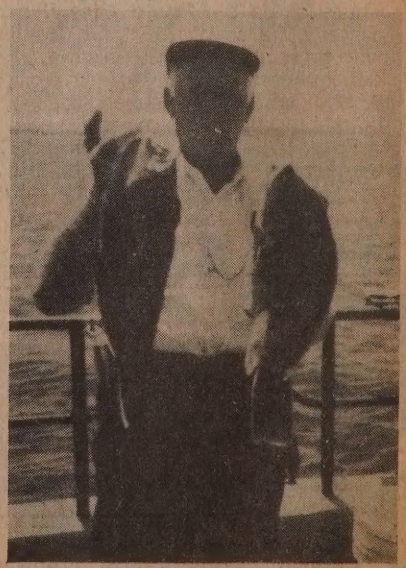
John Cacciola at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** spoke of blues in the centers of the harbors with schools moving all the time. Places to try included the Navy docks and the Elephant Herd barges. Blackfish were showing on both sides of the harbor and snapper sizes are up.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Eileen at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** said blues were chasing bunker in the bay most of this past week. Mabel Medhurst came from England to fish Huntington Bay and was happy indeed with four weakfish to 6 pounds. There were some large fluke early in the week off Eatons, and flatfish were still showing off the Nissequogue mouth. George Valentine at **Four Winds** suggested using umbrellas for blues off Target Rock, Marshall Field, and the Triangle. The Maioranas, Vinnie and John, had slammers of 17.9 and 16 even, and Bob Beck managed a 15.10 gorilla from Huntington Harbor.

Billy Collins of the **Ever Ready** described a slow week with an improvment in the action on Friday through Sunday. Average catch was 10-20 blues per fare in the 2-7 pound range with a few teen sized fish. Reefs like Stratford, Eaton's, and Crane's were likely areas, but the fish seem to cooperate better on chunk baits than on jigs. From now on, the big boat will be sailing only on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 8 am.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson** was looking at plenty of bare keeper fluke off the Pink House



John Hall shows a big sea bass and blackfish that he landed last month aboard the City Island open boat, "Sea King."

along with a lot of tautog to 5 pounds at Old Field. **Ralph's Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** featured porgies with a start on blackfish. **Sutler's** in **Port Jefferson** insisted that fluke were still around Buoy 9 while flounder are already appearing around the docks, and snappers are quite large.

The best fish of the week at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** was Mike Jacobs' 6¾ pound largemouth bass, taken out east on a jellyworm. Tautog on the incoming off Hagerman Landing run small, but are there in good numbers.

NORTH FORK

Charlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Fishing Station** had lots of mixed porgies east of the Inlet in 30-35 feet of water along with blackfish when anglers could get through the scup. Some of the porgies were indeed jumbos with sands in shallower water.

Sal Loria at **Captain Marty's** said that there were plenty of weakfish at Rose's Grove and off the Sandslide in the morning hours for those drifting with worms or squid. Smaller porgies could be found west of Nassau Point and off Buoy 3 west of Robins Island.

Art White at the**A.P. White Bait Shop** described a continuing slaughter of mid-sized bluefish in the Gut, the Race, and Pigeon Rip. Plum and Gull had tautog to offer and Orient Point was worth a try for flounder. Snappers were still thick.

Anna Mae Rainis called to tell us that pool winners like Jim Castagna were still at it on the **Blue Albatross** with tautog to 7-9 pounds and that Arlene Dovner topped the week off with a 10.5 bulldog on Sunday. It's been terrific "one drop" blackfishing. The boat will again be sailing open on a weekend Sunday, September 30th. Clark Bellows had a small crowd Thursday on the **Prime Time II** and combined a couple of hours fluking with some blackfishing. He saw lots of 4-5 pounders with the biggest around 8, and figures on a super season of blacks and flounders ahead.

Fred Wheeler of the **Brand X** mentioned some super "one drop" porgy fishing on some very big fish to 3 pounds in 40 feet of water on Friday. High hook catches could run to 70.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Saturday's nor'easter had a positive impact on the local surf scene which is typical of such storms in the fall. Some bigger bluefish put in an appearance along the South Shore but more important the NE winds and the cool night temperatures which followed triggered a heavy movement of bait out of all South Shore inlets. Big schools of mullet slid out of Jones, Fire Island and Moriches Inlets on Saturay afternoon through Sunday.

Prior to the blow a reliable source told of a few bass to 30 pounds taken on bait at West End II on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Small blues have been in and out of the inlet mornings and evenings. Conditions are right for some slammer blues to show up on the scene and this could happen before you read this. There were reports of some big blues taken on bait at Tobay over the weekend and Fire Island Inlet produced some real slammers on Sunday. This was on white Pencil Poppers. Among those scoring with the fish were East Islip High School Guidance Department Head Blair Moger who racked up blues of 15¼ and 16 pounds on Sunday morning. On Sunday evening Jack (The Painter) Murray nailed 4 fish in the 12-16 pound range. The latest word on Monday AM said that there

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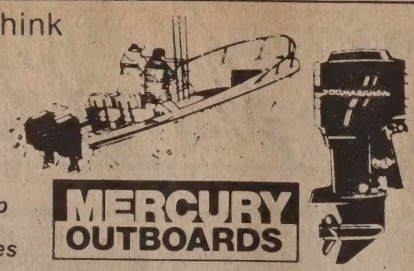

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was no repeat of the action.

John Stuarty reported taking several bass in the 8-12 pound range from the Democrat Point surf through the middle of last week. He told of Dave Canale of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** that the fish were taken on bunker chunks.

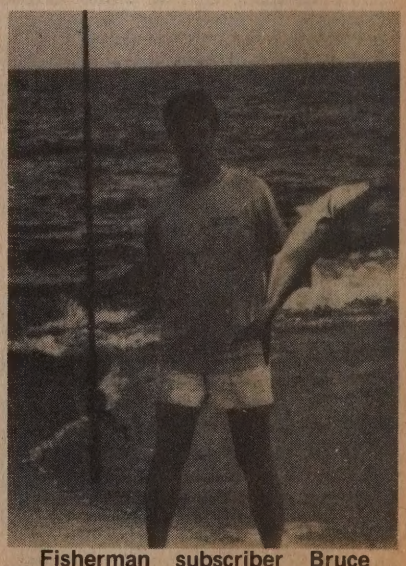
John 'The Baptist' Reed checked in a 9 pound weakfish and a 5 pound fluke at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** on Friday. Both fell for live snappers fished from the Sore Thumb.

Getting back to Democrat for a moment, Scott Smyth of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** put a bass of 31 pounds on the scale for Mike Waligora of Medford. It was taken at the Point on a mackerel chunk Thursday PM.

There was some action with short bass and a couple of small blues at Parking Field 4, Robert Moses, which is now open to surfmen during the daylight hours. You must have a night fishing permit in your possession however. It might be worth noting that there are lots of mullet moving along the stretch of beach Sunday morning and evening.

The place to be during Saturday's nor'easter must have been the jetties bordering Moriches Inlet. Once the tide began to ebb in the afternoon both the east and west sides came alive with bluefish. Most were in the 6 to 8 pound range with a few smaller and a few 10-12 pound fish taken as well. Casters who timed their visit right loaded up on popping plugs and tin. The fishing carried right up until dark. I hope you are reading this 'jinx' Bryant.

Not all of the action at Moriches on the weekend was blue. On Sunday morning a caster used a popper to take a 33 pound striper just east of Cut 1. Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** of **Patchogue** reported a 15 pound



Fisherman subscriber Bruce Schafer landed nine blues in the 6 to 8 lb. class during a recent blitz at Amagansett. All but one of the choppers were released by the Jersey angler.

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striper taken on a yellow darter taken at Moriches on Sunday night by Billy Kobel. Same night, Ozzie VonHelmond used the same plug to nail a 9 pound weakfish.

Once again, our circulation manager Steve Kenny told of good bluefishing on both Saturday and Sunday along the beaches between East Hampton and Amagansett. Most were 7-8 pounders which were being taken on both poppers and tin.

Marty Beer, Lou Palumbo and Jack Murray (again) enjoyed a bluefish blitz at Montauk last Thursday afternoon. A huge school of fish moved ashore from Hither Hills west to Amagansett and the trio caught fish 'till they were arm weary. Jack Home and Charlie Peppin cashed in on the action as well and then proceeded to do further damage to the bluefish population on the Point's north side that evening.

Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** in **Montauk** said that casters are getting in many good innings with the blues particularly along the south side beaches. There were just a few weaks taken during the week up front after dark along with a couple of short bass at Jones and under the Light.

Up on the North Shore, George Valentine of **Four Winds Tackle** in **Huntington** had just finished ringing up a customer who was busy restocking tackle lost to bluefish at Crab Meadow beach over the weekend. The fish which ranged from 5-13 pounds were being taken on bait and plugs and were also at Lilco. Saturday AM there was good action from the beach at Sand City while the first half of last week saw some wild action in Huntington, Northport and Centerport Harbors. Big fish here were being taken on bunker and plugs from town docks. Joe Draugelis weighed a 12 pound blue taken from the Centerport bridge at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** on Saturday.

Stan Hentschel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** weighed a 20 pound striper taken on a bunker chunk by Pete Penzi last week. It was caught near Shoreham. Stan noted that there has been some action with 2-5 pound blues after dark as well as with some short bass in the 3-5 pound range. One to three pound blues with an occaional larger fish have been showing up along local beaches evenings and early AM. Stan felt that things are starting to happen in the area and expects some decent bass fishing by the end of the month. He also reminded that he has a complete stock of Gibbs plugs on hand, including the new Needlefish for anyone seeking these lures.

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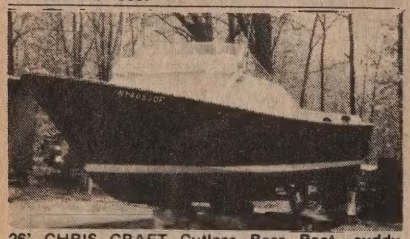

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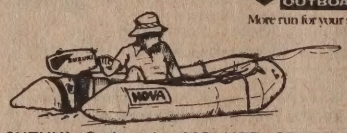

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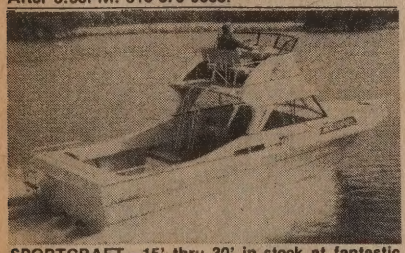

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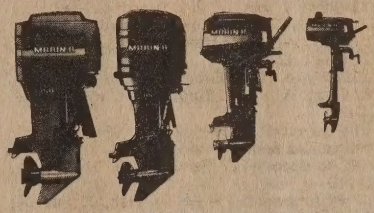

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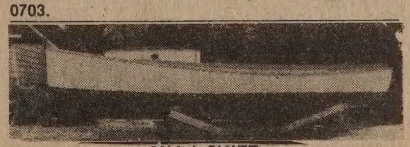

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Continued On Next Page

1977 CHRIS CRAFT 22' 0" I/B, V-8, outriggers, CB, canvas, cuddy. Low hrs. Good running cond. $8000. 516-878-0798.

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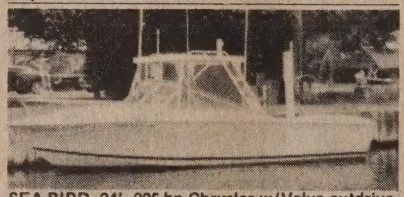

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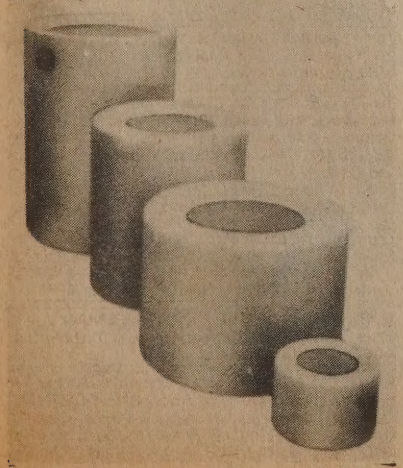

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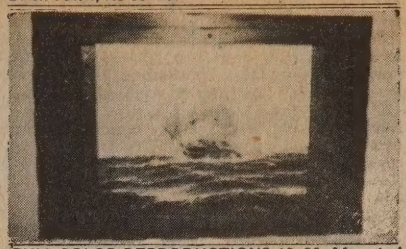

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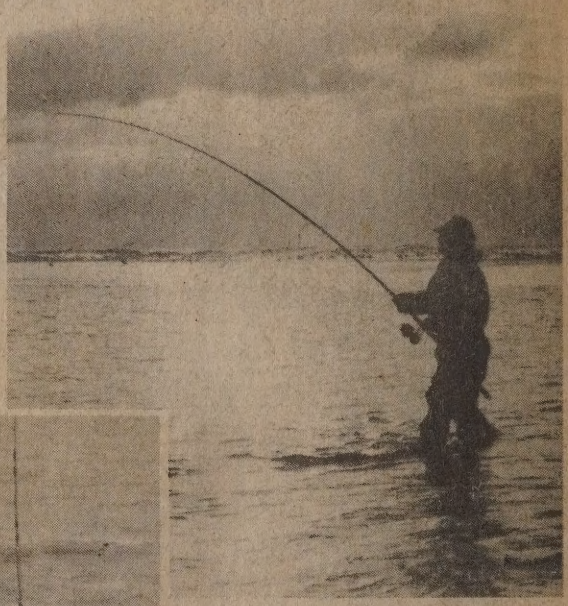

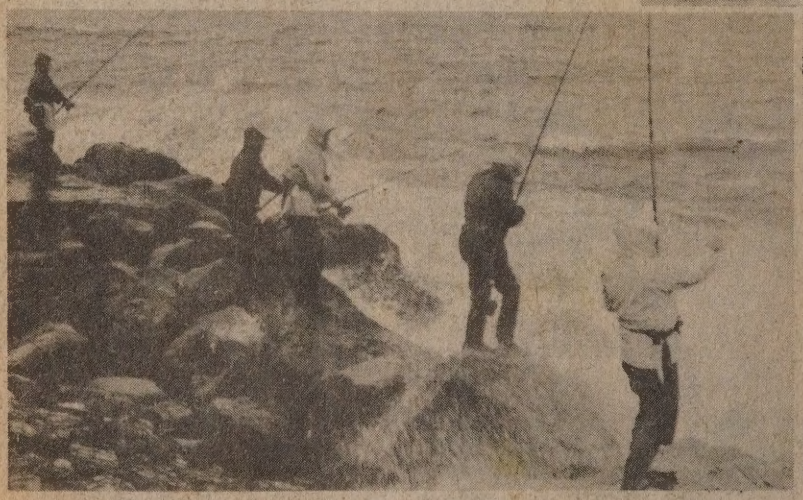

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